ANIMAL

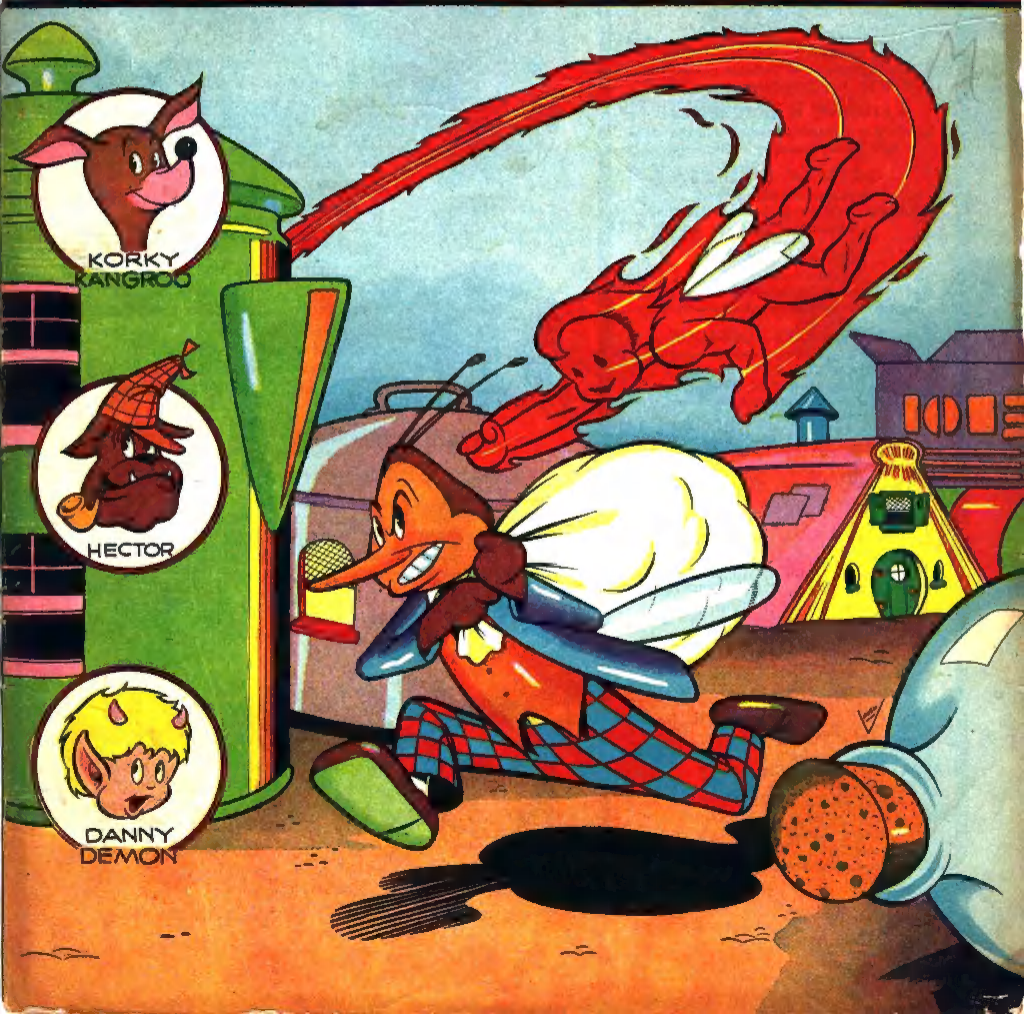
NO. 6

ANIMAL FABLES

AN ENTERTAINING EC COMIC

ALL PAGES IN FULL COLOR 10¢

M-DS



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ANIMAL FABLES

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Fires have been raging all over Bugtown, and everyone thinks FREDDY is guilty! He promises not to become FIREFLY again which gives Professor Mantis a chance to start a reign of crime! But even HIS diabolical brain is no match for FREDDY FIREFLY!

For the last month the cops have been looking for Slippery Slade, but no one has been able to catch him! Until HECTOR THE INSPECTOR takes up the case, and proves he's no dummy by pointing a finger at a very suspicious mummy!

All out for the Korky Hunt! Morty Mouse and Herbie Hippo are leading the expedition, and everything goes well until they meet Big Chief Ants-in-Pants, the heap good Injum Scout . . . who looks remarkably like KORKY KANGROO, himself!

THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF . . . a modern version of the famous Aesop Fable . . . is the sad story of little Edelweiss Dinklehoff, a practical-joker from wayback! Every so often he cried "Wolf!" just for fun . until one fine day . . . but why not read it yourself?

Mr. Fiend is at it again . . . but he can't seem to force little DANNY DEMON into doing anything wicked! He even shows DANNY how easy it is, by committing a horrible deed, himself! But, alas DANNY proves to be a difficult pupil!

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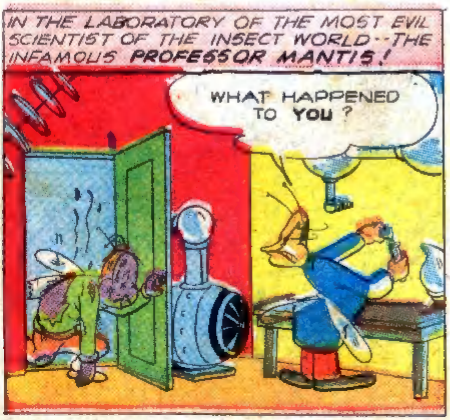
FREDDY FIREFLY

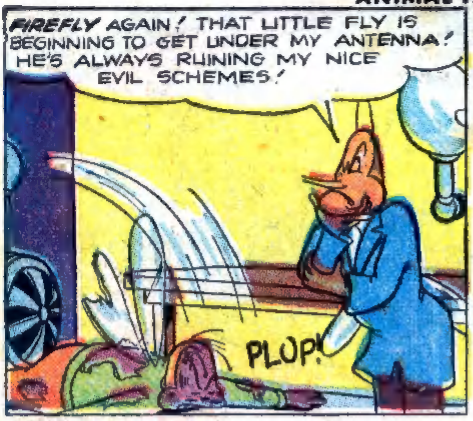
WHEN MEEK FREDDY SAYS THE MAGIC WORDS "TAKE FIRE" HE IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE FLAMING THUNDERBOLT ... FIREFLY!

B-BUT IF I DO, PROFESSOR MANTIS WILL ESCAPE!

PUT OUT THE FLAME, FIREFLY! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!

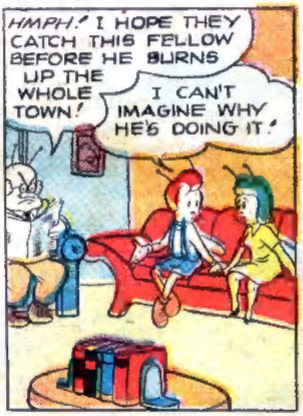
FIRES STRICTLY FORBIDDEN



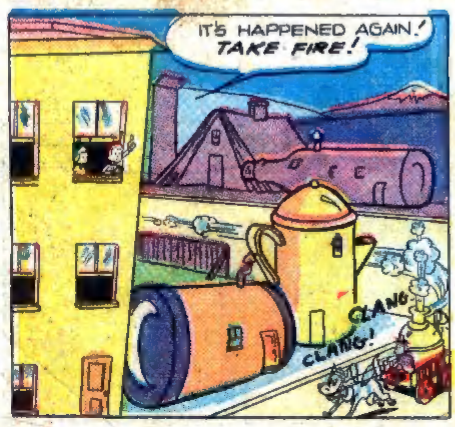

FIREFLY AGAIN! THAT LITTLE FLY IS BEGINNING TO GET UNDER MY ANTENNA! HE'S ALWAYS RUINING MY NICE EVIL SCHEMES!
PLOP!

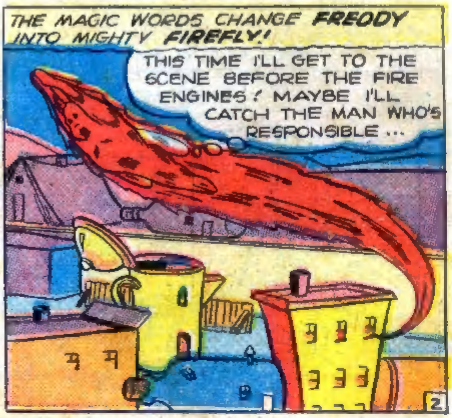
BUT I, PROFESSOR MANTIS WILL TRIUMPH! I KNOW JUST HOW TO DO IT! I'LL FIGHT FIREFLY WITH··· FIRE!

DAILY BUG
FIRES SWEEP BUGTOWN!!
POLICE VAINLY SEEK MYSTERIOUS FIREBUG

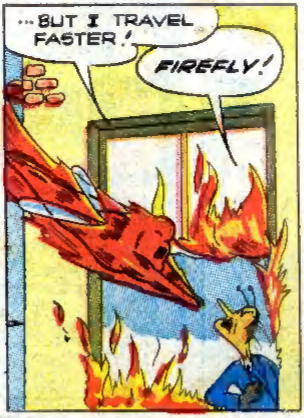

HMPH! I HOPE THEY CATCH THIS FELLOW BEFORE HE BURNS UP THE WHOLE TOWN!
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY HE'S DOING IT!

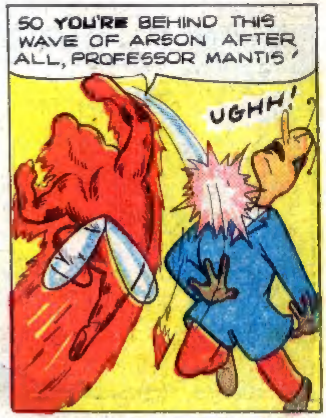
YOUR OLD ENEMY, PROFESSOR MANTIS, GOT OUT OF JAIL RECENTLY! DO YOU THINK HE'S SETTING THESE FIRES?
I DOUBT IT, MYRTLE! WHY SHOULD HE DO ANYTHING SO SILLY?
CLANG! CLANG


IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN! TAKE FIRE!
CLANG
CLANG!

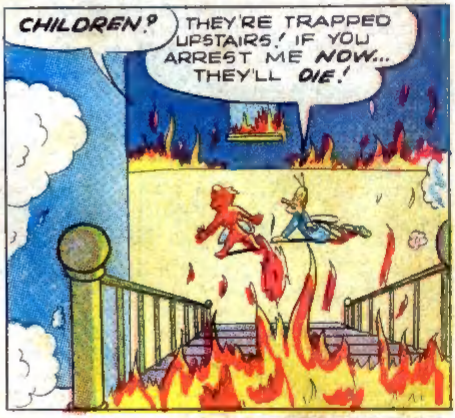

THE MAGIC WORDS CHANGE FREDDY INTO MIGHTY FIREFLY!
THIS TIME I'LL GET TO THE SCENE BEFORE THE FIRE ENGINES! MAYBE I'LL CATCH THE MAN WHO'S RESPONSIBLE ···

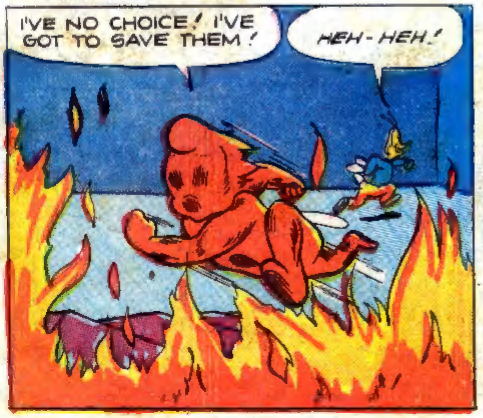
HEH-HEH! JUST ONE MORE! THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE THE FIREMEN ARRIVE!

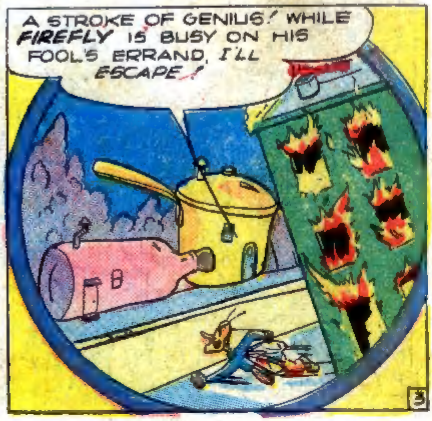

...BUT I TRAVEL FASTER!
FIREFLY!

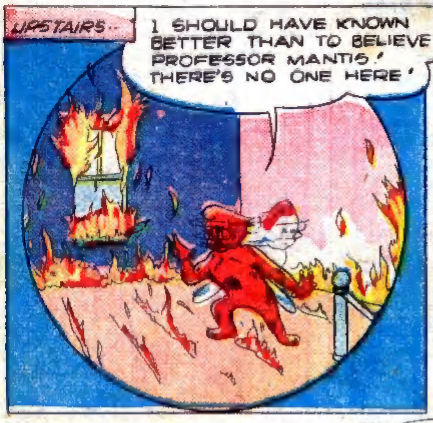

SO YOU'RE BEHIND THIS WAVE OF ARSON AFTER ALL, PROFESSOR MANTIS!
UGHH!

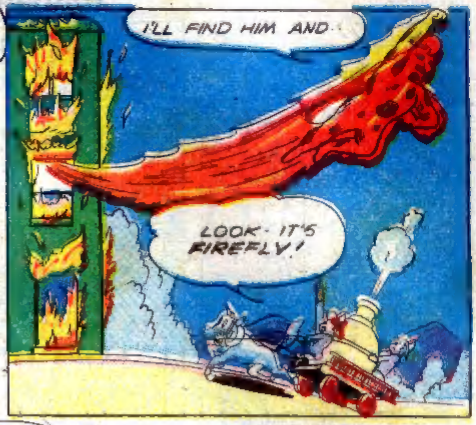
I'M PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST!
GO AHEAD, FIREFLY! LET THOSE INNOCENT CHILDREN PERISH...


CHILDREN?
THEY'RE TRAPPED UPSTAIRS! IF YOU ARREST ME NOW... THEY'LL DIE!


I'VE NO CHOICE! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM!
HEH-HEH!

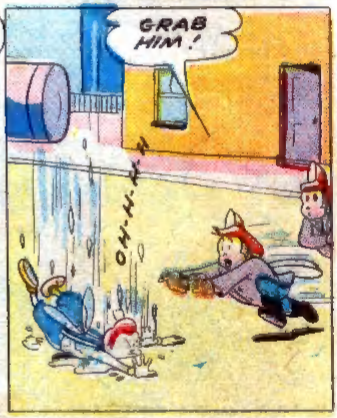

A STROKE OF GENIUS! WHILE FIREFLY IS BUSY ON HIS FOOL'S ERRAND, I'LL ESCAPE!


UPSTAIRS..
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO BELIEVE PROFESSOR MANTIS! THERE'S NO ONE HERE!

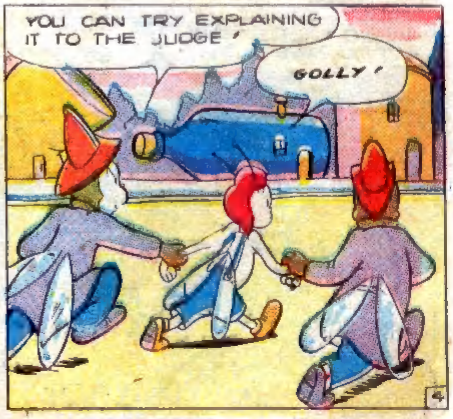

I'LL FIND HIM AND..
LOOK- IT'S FIREFLY!

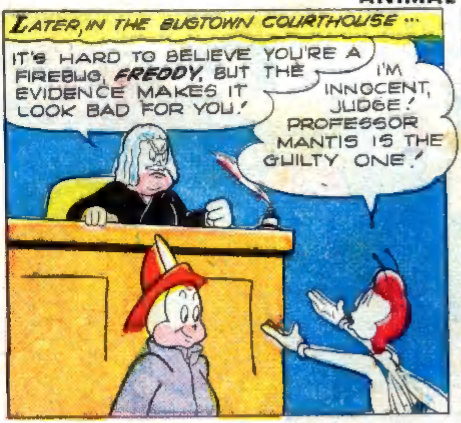
I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT! BUT HE MUST BE THE ONE WHO'S SETTING THESE FIRES!

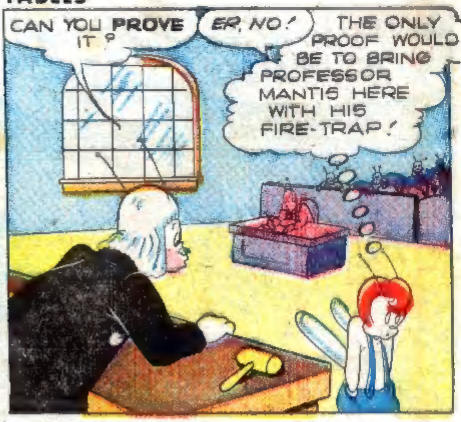
GLUB!.. HEY! YOU'RE PUTTING OUT MY FLAMES!


GRAB HIM!
OH-H-H-H

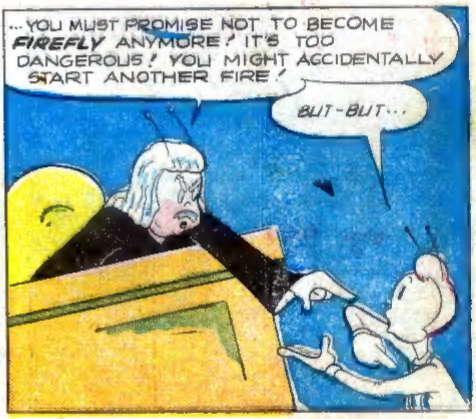
YOU WON'T SET ANY-MORE FIRES IN THIS TOWN!
WHO, ME? I DIDN'T START THE FIRE! IT WAS


YOU CAN TRY EXPLAINING IT TO THE JUDGE!
GOLLY!

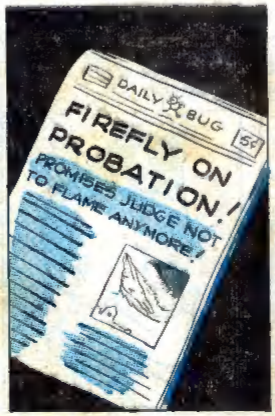

LATER, IN THE BUGTOWN COURTHOUSE ...
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE A FIREBUG, FREDDY, BUT THE EVIDENCE MAKES IT LOOK BAD FOR YOU!
I'M INNOCENT, JUDGE! PROFESSOR MANTIS IS THE GUILTY ONE!

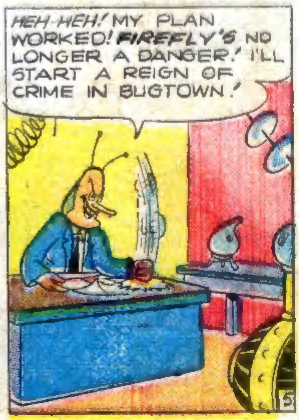

CAN YOU PROVE IT?
ER, NO!
THE ONLY PROOF WOULD BE TO BRING PROFESSOR MANTIS HERE WITH HIS FIRE-TRAP!

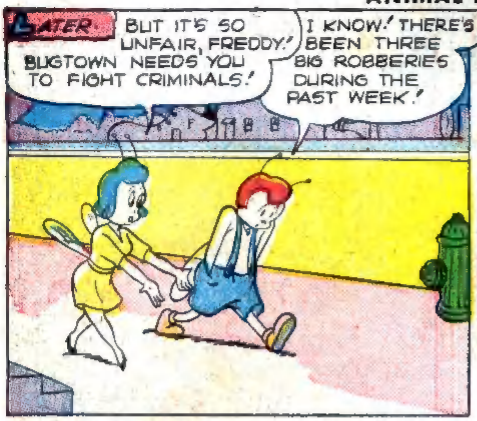
I SENTENCE YOU TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT! BUT I'LL SUSPEND THE SENTENCE ON ONE CONDITION... SINCE I DON'T BELIEVE YOU STARTED THESE FIRES DELIBERATELY....


...YOU MUST PROMISE NOT TO BECOME FIREFLY ANYMORE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! YOU MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY START ANOTHER FIRE!
BUT-BUT...

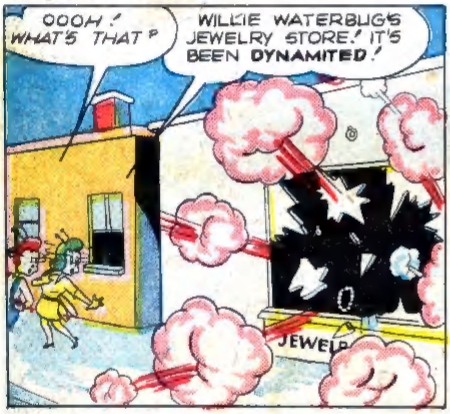
EITHER YOU PROMISE, OR YOU GO TO JAIL! TAKE YOUR CHOICE!
GULP! I-I-I PROMISE!

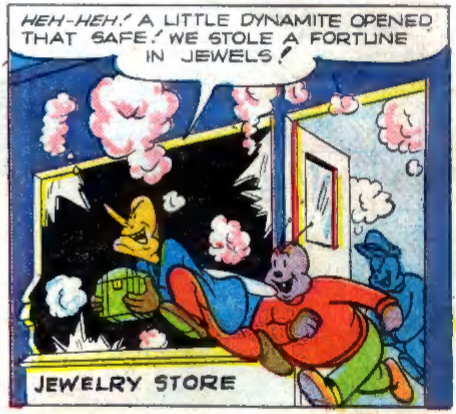

DAILY BUG
FIREFLY ON PROBATION!
PROMISES JUDGE NOT TO FLAME ANYMORE!

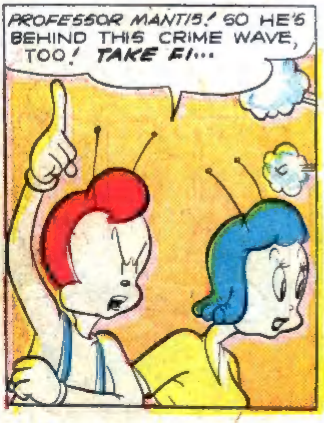

HEH-HEH! MY PLAN WORKED! FIREFLY'S NO LONGER A DANGER! I'LL START A REIGN OF CRIME IN BUGTOWN!

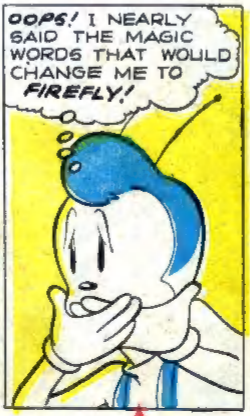

LATER
BUT IT'S SO UNFAIR, FREDDY! BUGTOWN NEEDS YOU TO FIGHT CRIMINALS!
I KNOW! THERE'S BEEN THREE BIG ROBBERIES DURING THE PAST WEEK!

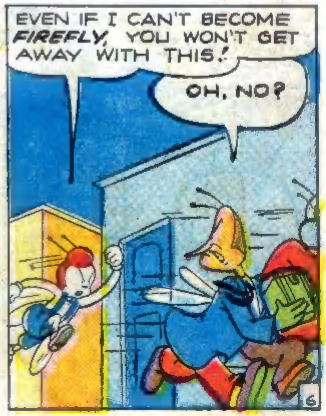
BUT I'M HELPLESS, MYRTLE! IF I BECOME FIREFLY, THE JUDGE WILL SEND ME TO JAIL FOR LIFE ...
BOOM

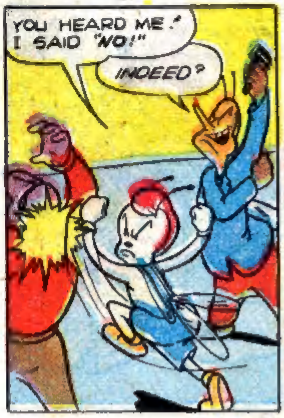

OOOH! WHAT'S THAT?
WILLIE WATERBUG'S JEWELRY STORE! IT'S BEEN DYNAMITED!
JEWELR

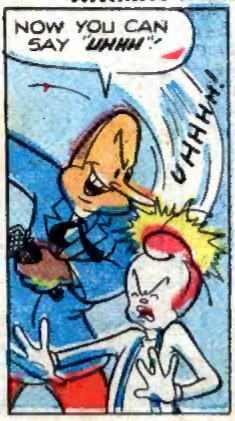

HEH-HEH! A LITTLE DYNAMITE OPENED THAT SAFE! WE STOLE A FORTUNE IN JEWELS!
JEWELRY STORE

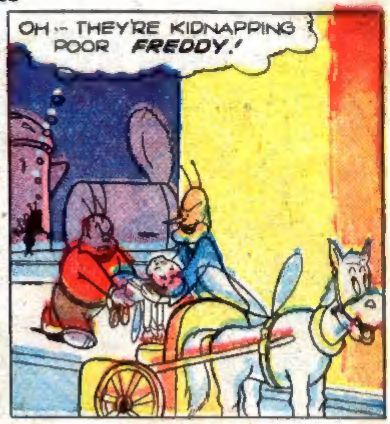

PROFESSOR MANTIS! SO HE'S BEHIND THIS CRIME WAVE, TOO! TAKE FI...

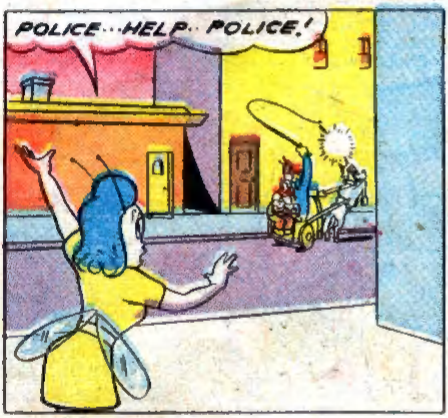

OOPS! I NEARLY SAID THE MAGIC WORDS THAT WOULD CHANGE ME TO FIREFLY!

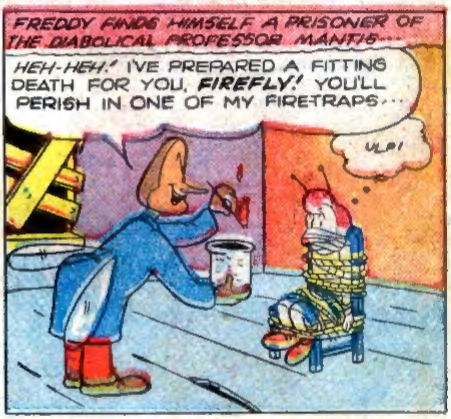

EVEN IF I CAN'T BECOME FIREFLY, YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
OH, NO?

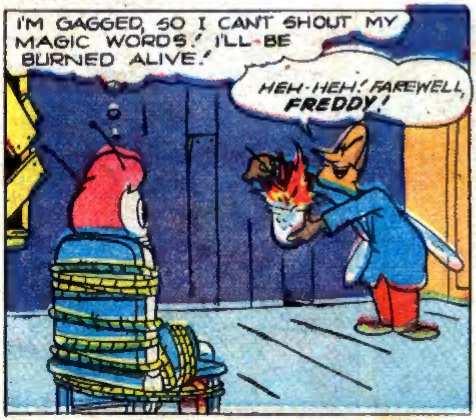

YOU HEARD ME! I SAID "NO!"
INDEED?

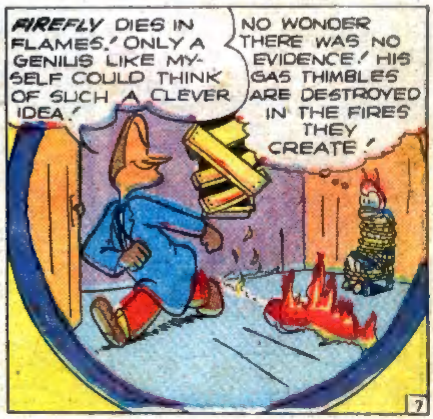

NOW YOU CAN SAY "UHHH"!
UHHHH!

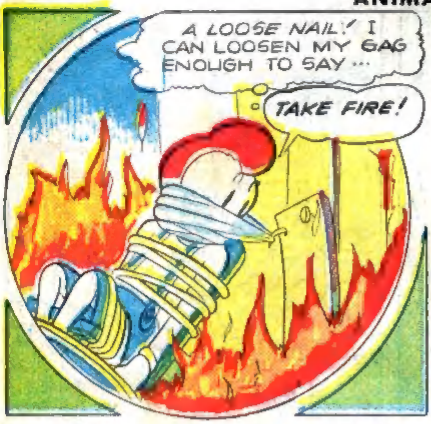

OH-- THEY'RE KIDNAPPING POOR FREDDY!

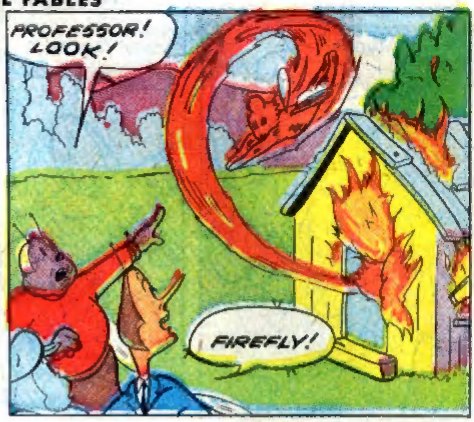

POLICE...HELP.. POLICE!

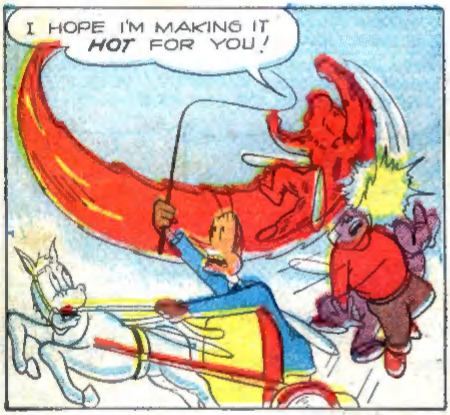

FREDDY FINDS HIMSELF A PRISONER OF THE DIABOLICAL PROFESSOR MANTIS...
HEH-HEH! I'VE PREPARED A FITTING DEATH FOR YOU, FIREFLY! YOU'LL PERISH IN ONE OF MY FIRETRAPS...
ULP!

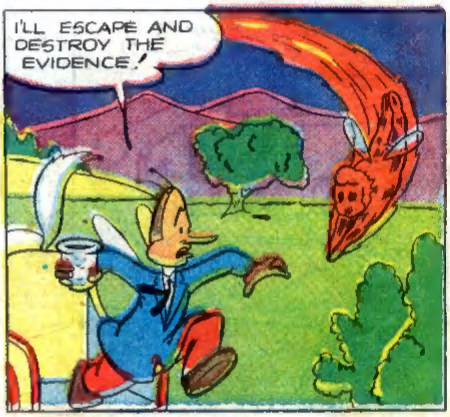

I'M GAGGED, SO I CANT SHOUT MY MAGIC WORDS! I'LL BE BURNED ALIVE!
HEH-HEH! FAREWELL, FREDDY!


FIREFLY DIES IN FLAMES! ONLY A GENIUS LIKE MYSELF COULD THINK OF SUCH A CLEVER IDEA!
NO WONDER THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE! HIS GAS THIMBLES ARE DESTROYED IN THE FIRES THEY CREATE!


A LOOSE NAIL! I CAN LOOSEN MY GAG ENOUGH TO SAY ...
TAKE FIRE!

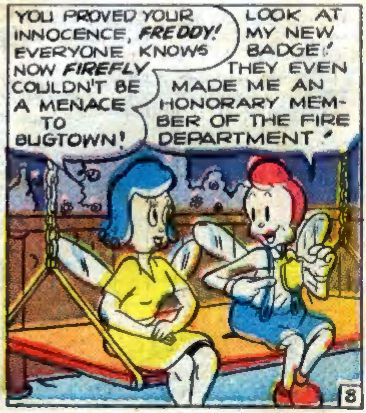

PROFESSOR! LOOK!
FIREFLY!


I HOPE I'M MAKING IT HOT FOR YOU!


I'LL ESCAPE AND DESTROY THE EVIDENCE!

NO FIGHT LEFT IN HIM! AND THIS THIMBLE IS ALL THE EVIDENCE I NEED TO CLEAR MYSELF!

DAILY BUG
FIREFLY CLEARED
PROFESSOR MANTIS JAILED


YOU PROVED YOUR INNOCENCE, FREDDY! EVERYONE KNOWS NOW FIREFLY COULDN'T BE A MENACE TO BUGTOWN!
LOOK AT MY NEW BADGE! THEY EVEN MADE ME AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!

HECTOR The Inspector

Follow HECTOR, THE WORLD'S GREATEST ANIMAL DETECTIVE, IN THE THRILLING "CASE OF THE MISSING MUMMY"!

I SEE THEY'RE OFFERING A $10,000 REWARD FOR SLIPPERY SLADE!

THEY'LL NEVER CATCH THAT GUY! HE'S TOO SMART!

SERGEANT

I'LL SAY HE IS! EVERY COP IN THE COUNTRY'S BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM FOR A MONTH!

EVEN HECTOR THE INSPECTOR IS LOOKING FOR HIM!

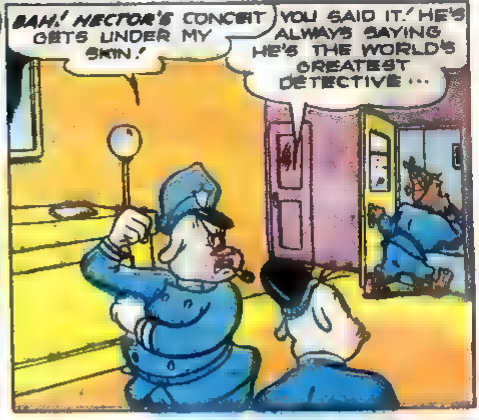
HECTOR WILL NEVER FIND HIM HANGING AROUND THAT EGYPTIAN MUSEUM! THIS IS ONE TIME HECTOR'S MET A CROOK THAT'S TOO CLEVER FOR HIM...

YOU SAID IT, SARGE!

YOU ARE WRONG, GENTLEMEN!

HECTOR THE INSPECTOR!

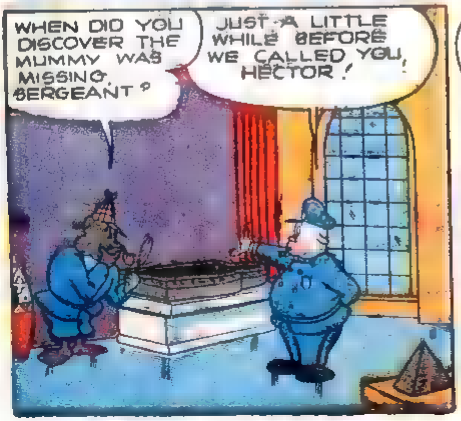
SLIPPERY SLADE WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE SOONER THAN YOU THINK! I, HECTOR, HAVE SPOKEN!

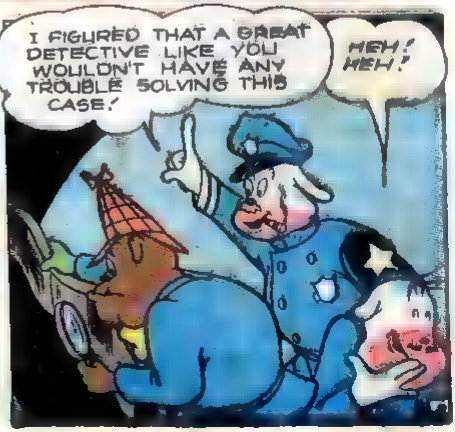

BAH! HECTOR'S CONCEIT GETS UNDER MY SKIN!
YOU SAID IT! HE'S ALWAYS SAYING HE'S THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE...

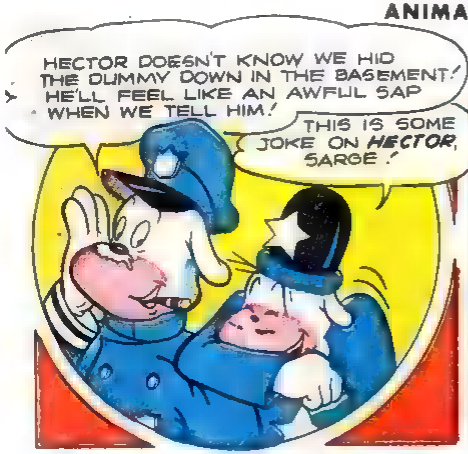
WE'LL PROVE HE ISN'T SO SMART! LISTEN! WE'LL FAKE A CALL FROM THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM AND BZZ - BZZ!
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, SARGE!

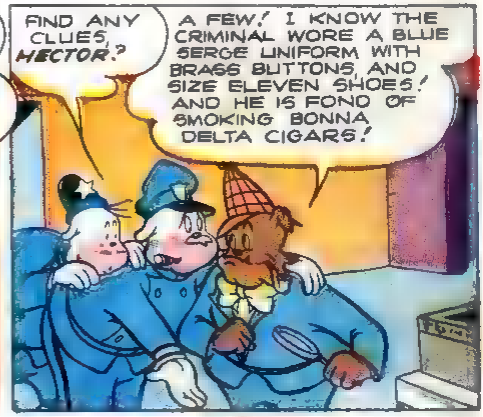
LATER...
WHAT'S THAT, SERGEANT? A VALUABLE MUMMY HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

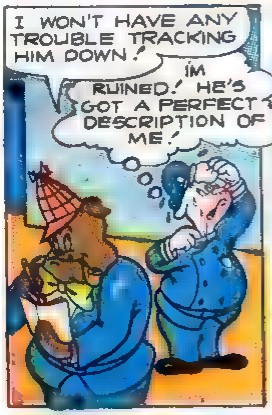
HMMM! I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE! IT'S THE ONLY NATURAL EXPLANATION!


WHEN DID YOU DISCOVER THE MUMMY WAS MISSING, SERGEANT?
JUST A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE WE CALLED YOU, HECTOR!


I FIGURED THAT A GREAT DETECTIVE LIKE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE SOLVING THIS CASE!
HEH! HEH!

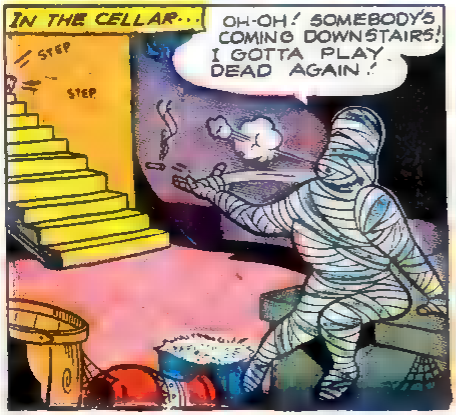

HECTOR DOESN'T KNOW WE HID THE DUMMY DOWN IN THE BASEMENT! HE'LL FEEL LIKE AN AWFUL SAP WHEN WE TELL HIM!
THIS IS SOME JOKE ON HECTOR, SARGE!

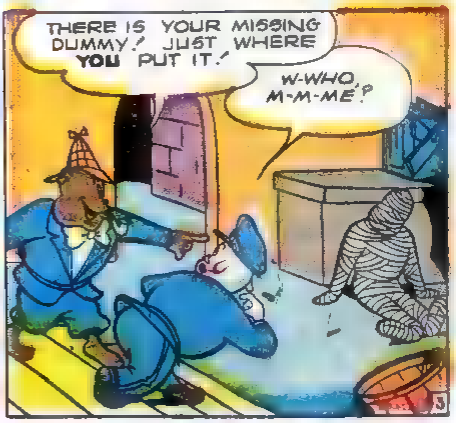

FIND ANY CLUES, HECTOR?
A FEW! I KNOW THE CRIMINAL WORE A BLUE SERGE UNIFORM WITH BRASS BUTTONS, AND SIZE ELEVEN SHOES! AND HE IS FOND OF SMOKING BONNA DELTA CIGARS!

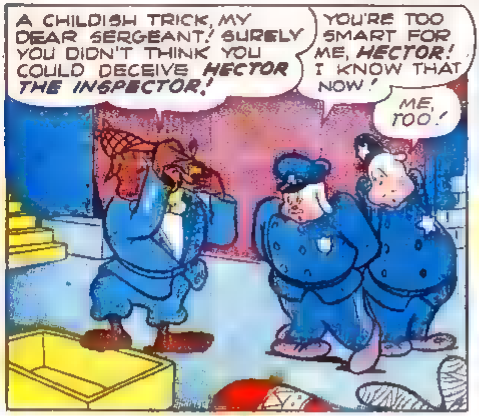

I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE TRACKING HIM DOWN!
I'M RUINED! HE'S GOT A PERFECT DESCRIPTION OF ME!

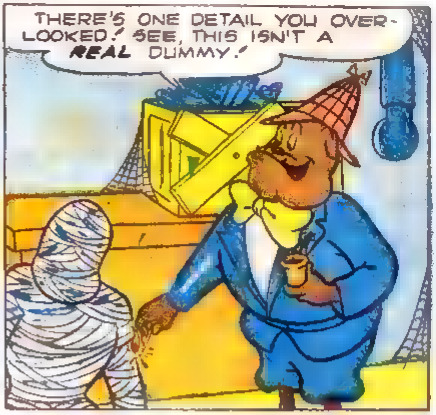
I'VE GOT TO TAKE HIS MIND OFF ME!
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT THE M-MISSING DUMMY? WHERE IS IT?
ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR SERGEANT!

THE THIEF COULD HAVE HIDDEN IT ONLY IN ONE PLACE! THE CELLAR OF THE MUSEUM!


IN THE CELLAR...
STEP
STEP
OH-OH! SOMEBODY'S COMING DOWNSTAIRS! I GOTTA PLAY DEAD AGAIN!


THERE IS YOUR MISSING DUMMY! JUST WHERE YOU PUT IT!
W-WHO, M-M-ME?


A CHILDISH TRICK, MY DEAR SERGEANT! SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD DECEIVE HECTOR THE INSPECTOR!
YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR ME, HECTOR! I KNOW THAT NOW!
ME, TOO!


THERE'S ONE DETAIL YOU OVERLOOKED! SEE, THIS ISN'T A REAL DUMMY!

EEEOWWW! I'M ON FIRE!
GREAT THUNDER! IT'S ALIVE!

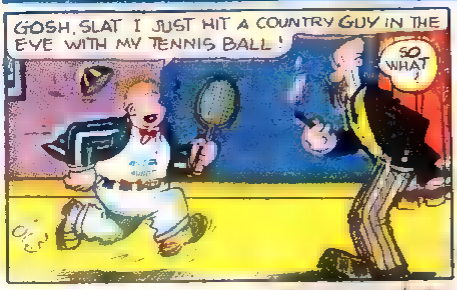
YOUR SO-CALLED EGYPTIAN MUMMY IS NONE OTHER THAN SLIPPERY SLADE!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!

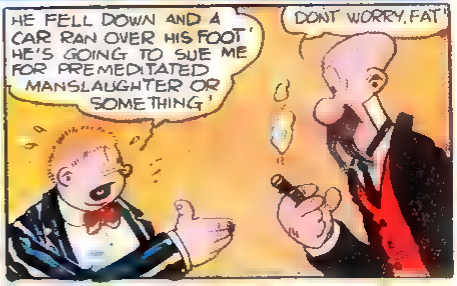
DON'T BE SILLY! NO ONE ESCAPES FROM HECTOR THE INSPECTOR!
!

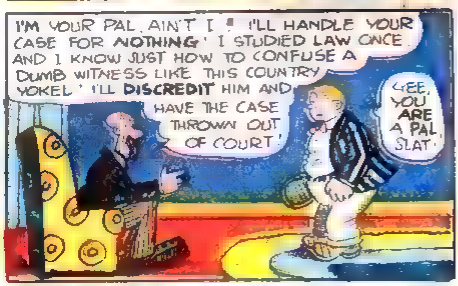
I TRACED SLIPPERY SLADE TO THIS MUSEUM! ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW WAS HIS HIDING PLACE! THE MUMMY SUPPLIED THE ANSWER TO THAT!
TO THINK WE KIDNAPPED HIM FROM THE MUMMY CASE, AND NEVER GUESSED HE WASN'T A REAL DUMMY! HOW COULD WE BE SO STUPID?

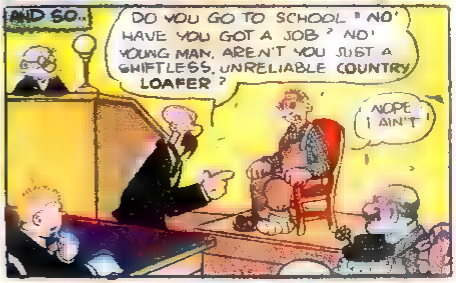
YOU WEREN'T STUPID, MY FRIENDS! YOU JUST WERE NO MATCH FOR THE GENIUS OF HECTOR THE INSPECTOR!

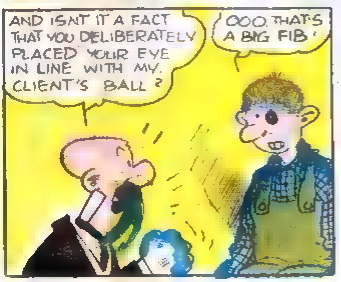
FAT AND SLAT

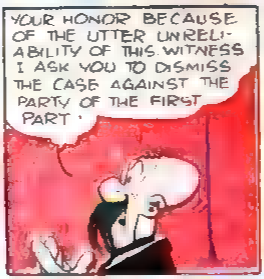


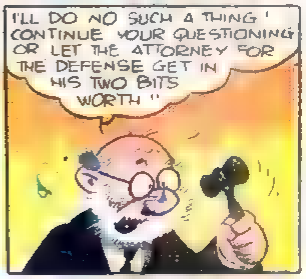


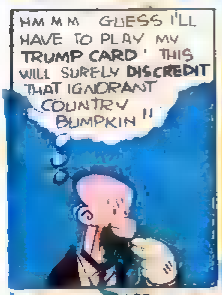


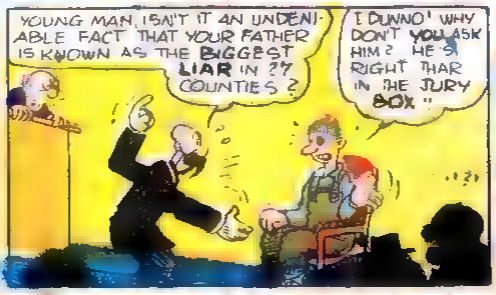






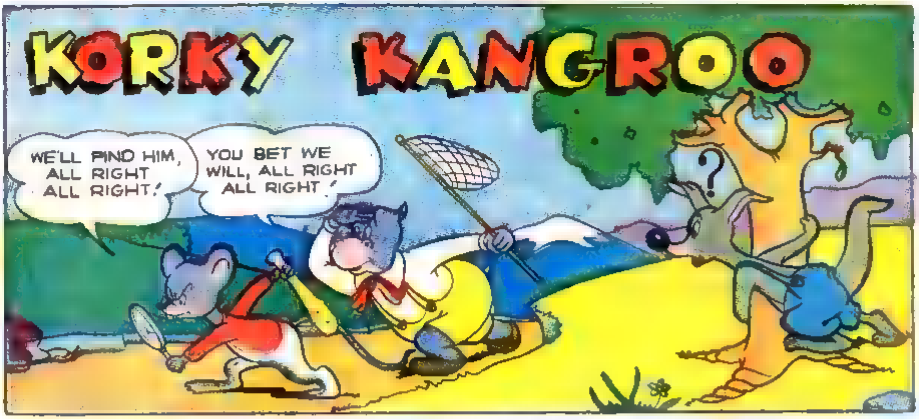


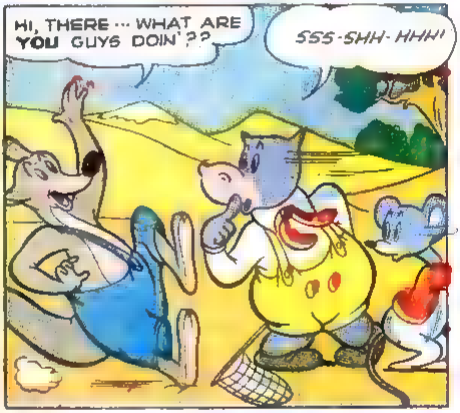


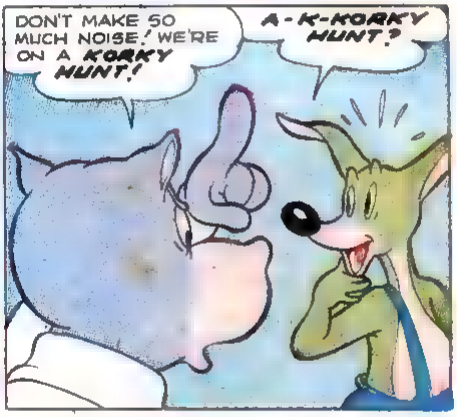


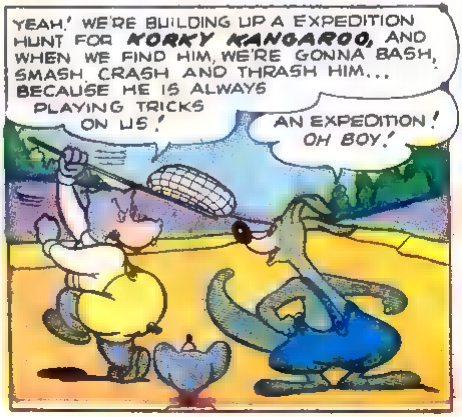
FAT AND SLAT APPEAR IN THEIR OWN MAGAZINE, NOW ON SALE EVERYWHERE!
FOR A BELLYFULL OF CHUCKLES... BE SURE TO READ **FAT AND SLAT!**

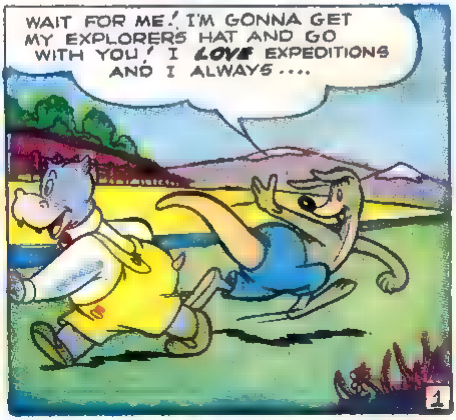
KORKY KANGROO

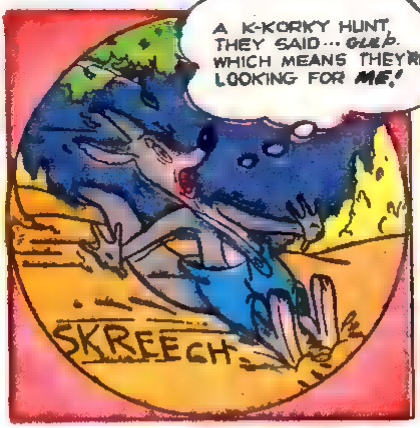


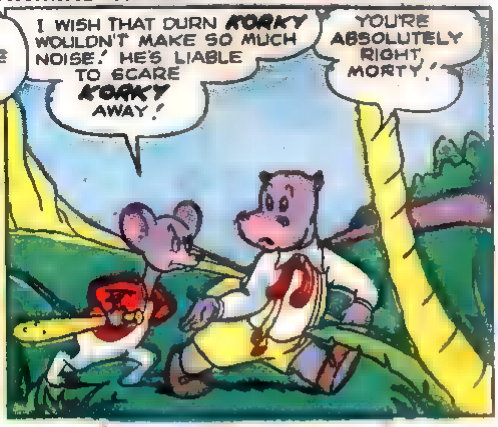


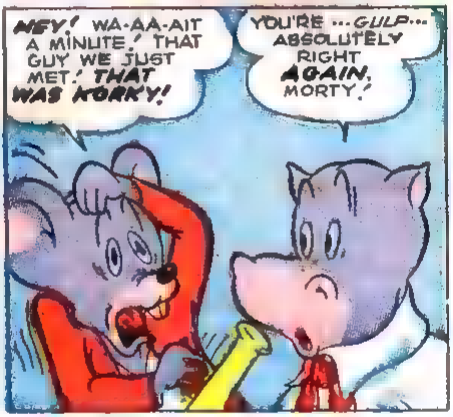


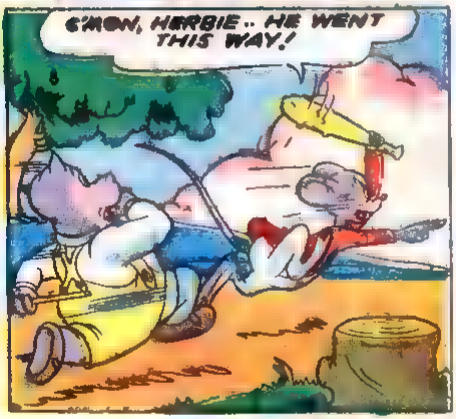





A K-KORKY HUNT, THEY SAID... GLUP. WHICH MEANS THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME!
SKREECH

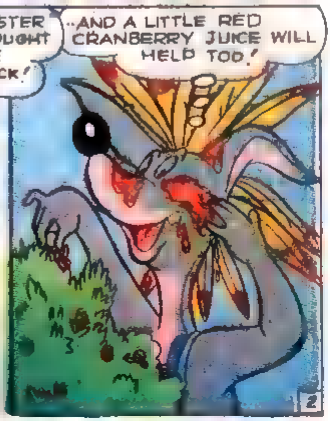

I WISH THAT DURN KORKY WOULDN'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE! HE'S LIABLE TO SCARE KORKY AWAY!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, MORTY!

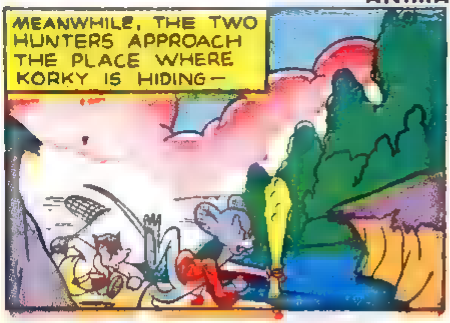

HEY! WA-AA-AIT A MINUTE! THAT GUY WE JUST MET! THAT WAS KORKY!
YOU'RE ...GULP... ABSOLUTELY RIGHT AGAIN, MORTY!

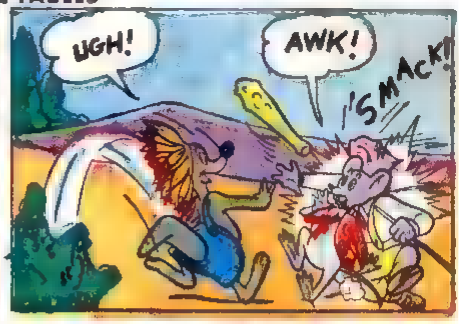

C'MON, HERBIE.. HE WENT THIS WAY!

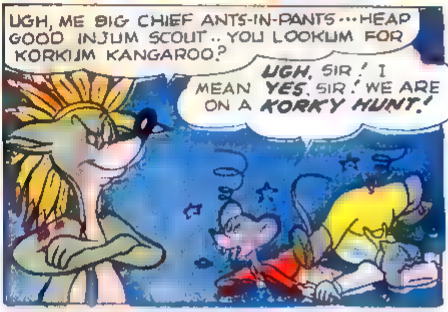
HUMPH!! DURN FOOLS! LOOK AT 'EM GO! I THINK I'LL TEACH THEM A LESSON ONCE AND FOR ALL!

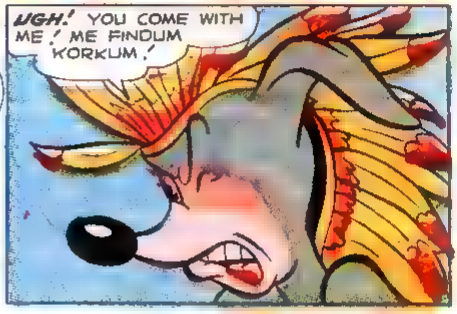
HEY!... I MEAN.. EQUALK!
THESE ROOSTER FEATHERS OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!

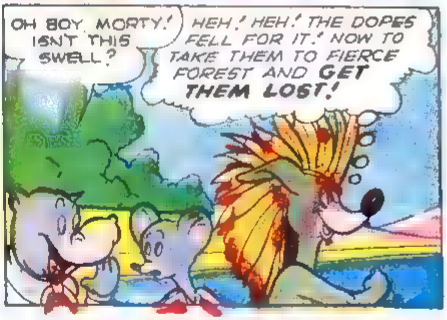

..AND A LITTLE RED CRANBERRY JUICE WILL HELP TOO!

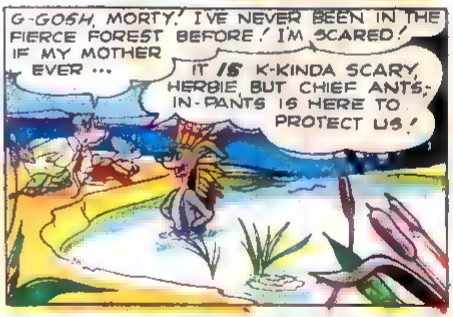

MEANWHILE, THE TWO HUNTERS APPROACH THE PLACE WHERE KORKY IS HIDING—

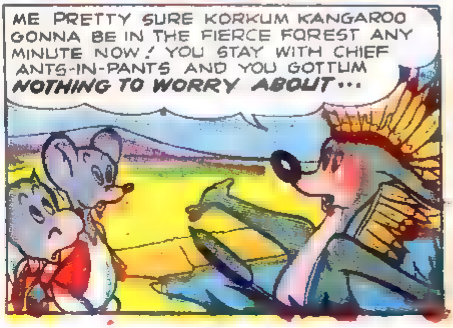

UGH!
AWK!
SMACK!

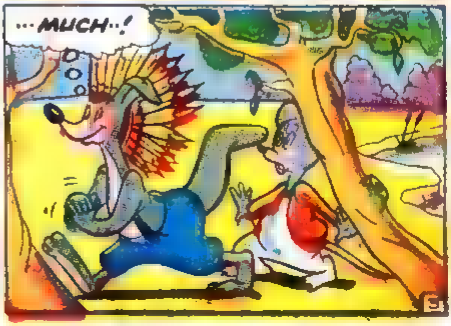

UGH, ME BIG CHIEF ANTS-IN-PANTS ··· HEAP GOOD INJUM SCOUT.. YOU LOOKUM FOR KORKUM KANGAROO?
UGH, SIR! I MEAN YES, SIR! WE ARE ON A KORKY HUNT!

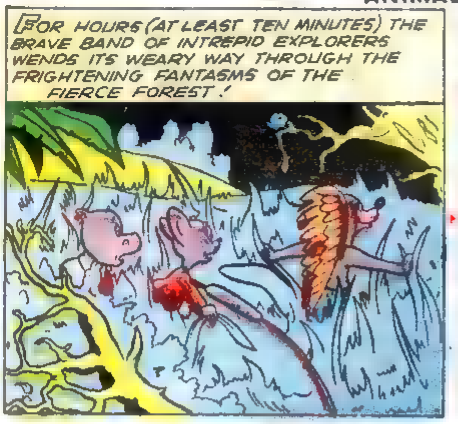

UGH! YOU COME WITH ME! ME FINDUM KORKUM!

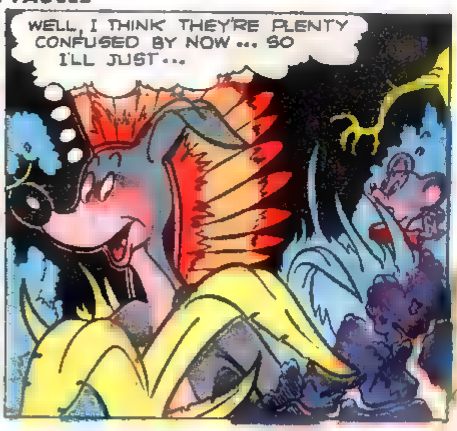

OH BOY, MORTY! ISN'T THIS SWELL?
HEH! HEH! THE DOPES FELL FOR IT! NOW TO TAKE THEM TO FIERCE FOREST AND GET THEM LOST!

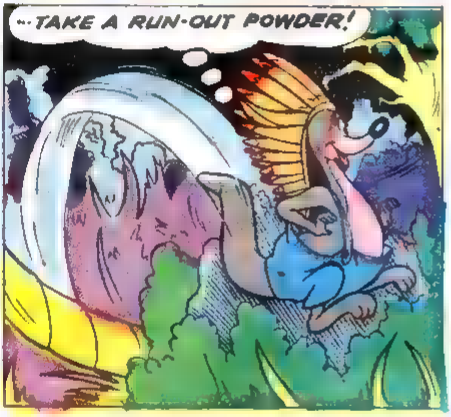

G-GOSH, MORTY! I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THE FIERCE FOREST BEFORE! I'M SCARED!
IF MY MOTHER EVER ···
IT IS K-KINDA SCARY, HERBIE, BUT CHIEF ANTS-IN-PANTS IS HERE TO PROTECT US!

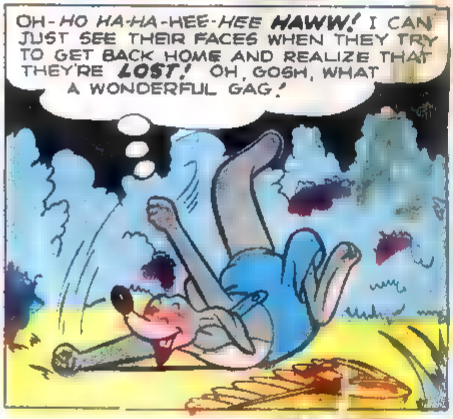

ME PRETTY SURE KORKUM KANGAROO GONNA BE IN THE FIERCE FOREST ANY MINUTE NOW! YOU STAY WITH CHIEF ANTS-IN-PANTS AND YOU GOTTUM NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT···

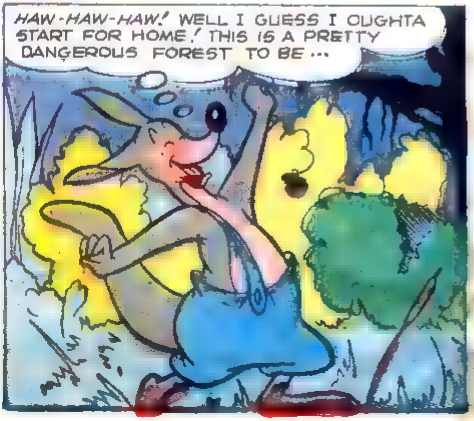

···MUCH··!


FOR HOURS (AT LEAST TEN MINUTES) THE BRAVE BAND OF INTREPID EXPLORERS WENDS ITS WEARY WAY THROUGH THE FRIGHTENING FANTASMS OF THE FIERCE FOREST!

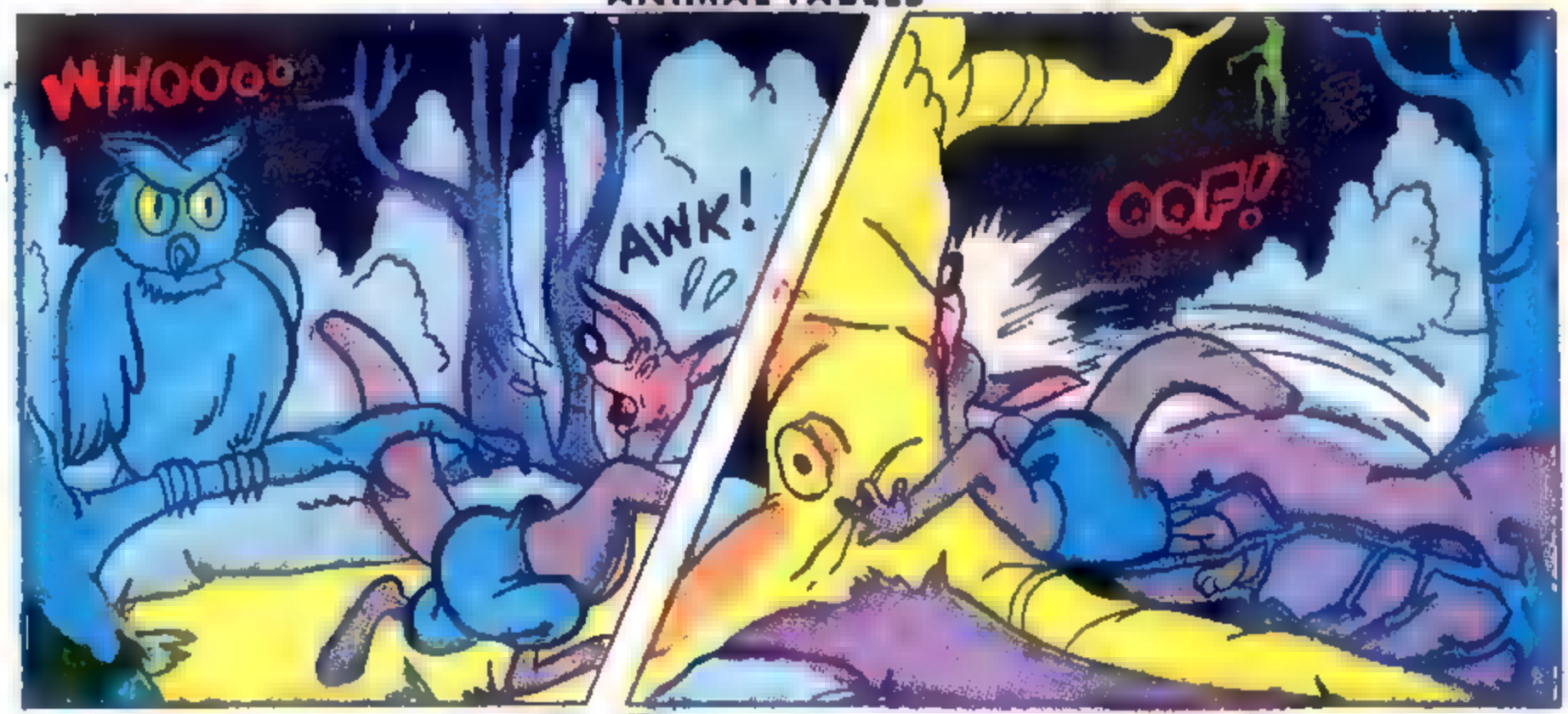

WELL, I THINK THEY'RE PLENTY CONFUSED BY NOW ... SO I'LL JUST ...

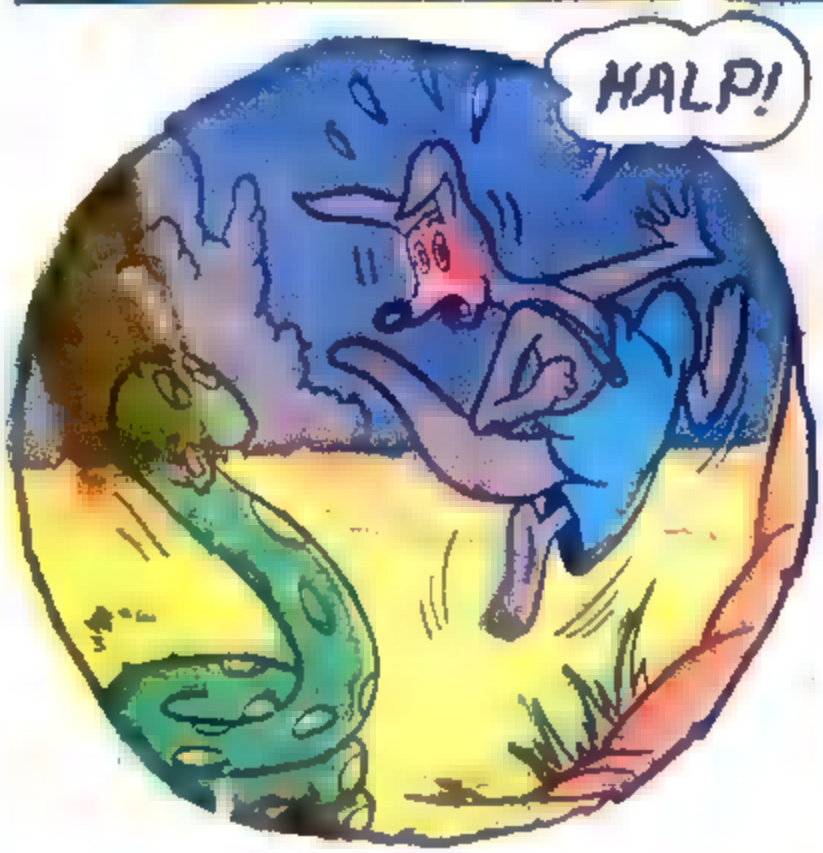

...TAKE A RUN-OUT POWDER!

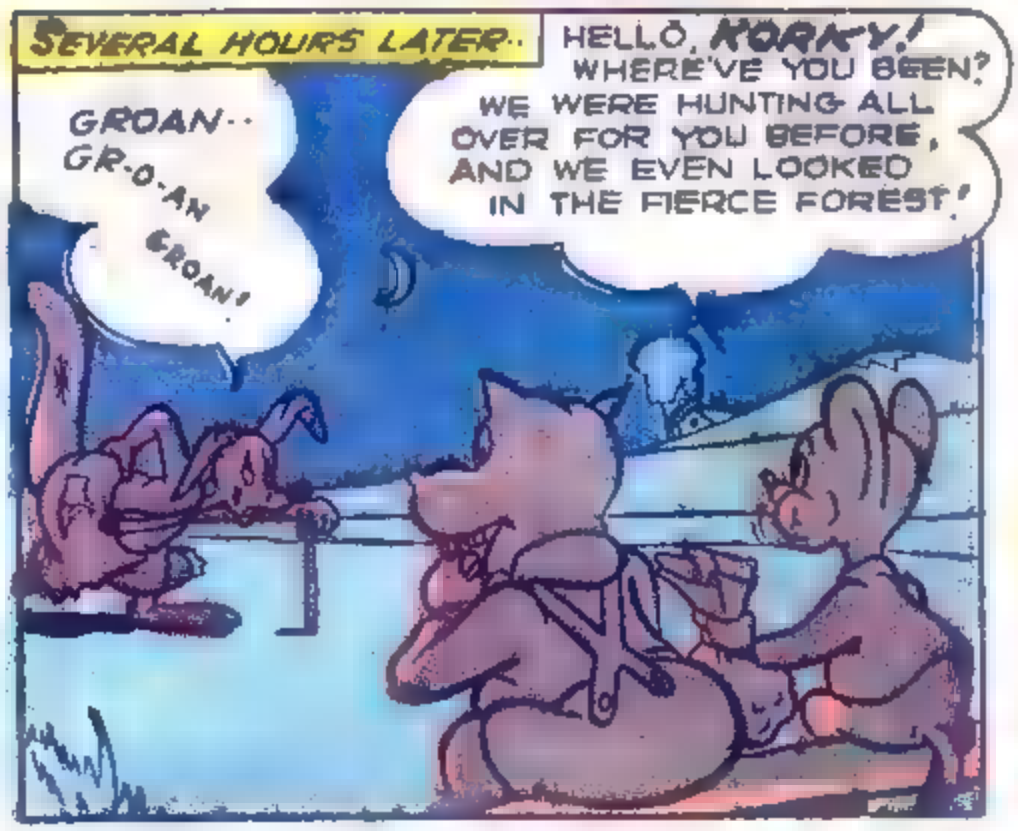

OH-HO HA-HA-HEE-HEE HAWW! I CAN JUST SEE THEIR FACES WHEN THEY TRY TO GET BACK HOME AND REALIZE THAT THEY'RE LOST! OH, GOSH, WHAT A WONDERFUL GAG!

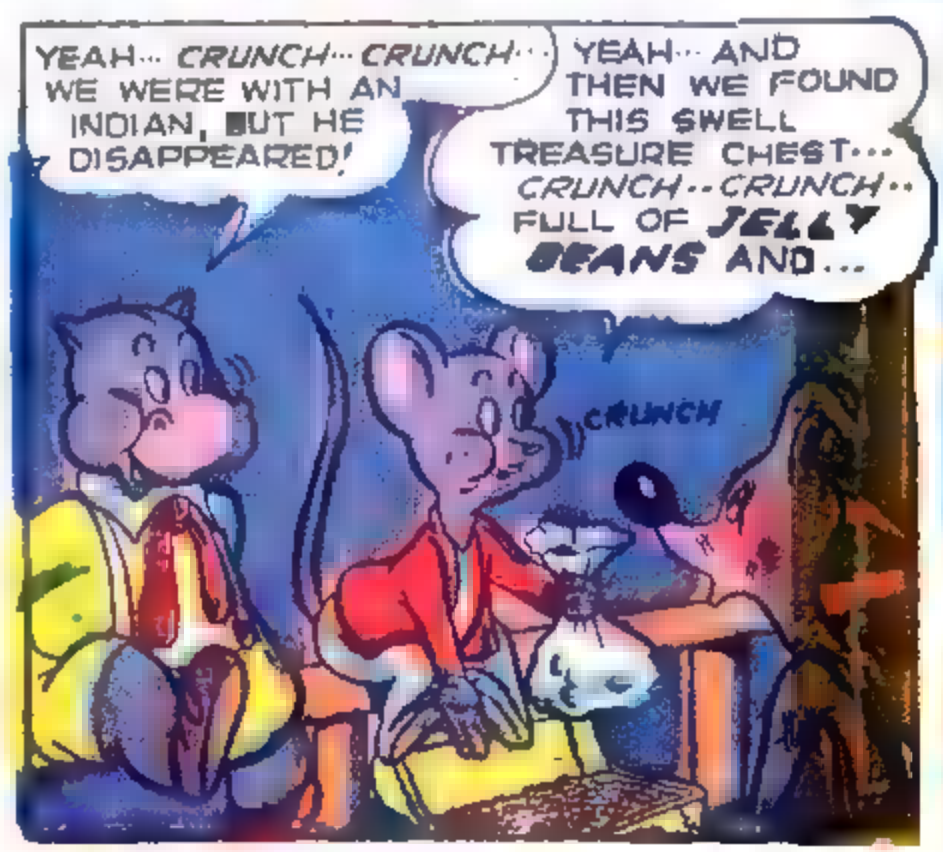

HAW-HAW-HAW! WELL I GUESS I OUGHTA START FOR HOME! THIS IS A PRETTY DANGEROUS FOREST TO BE ...

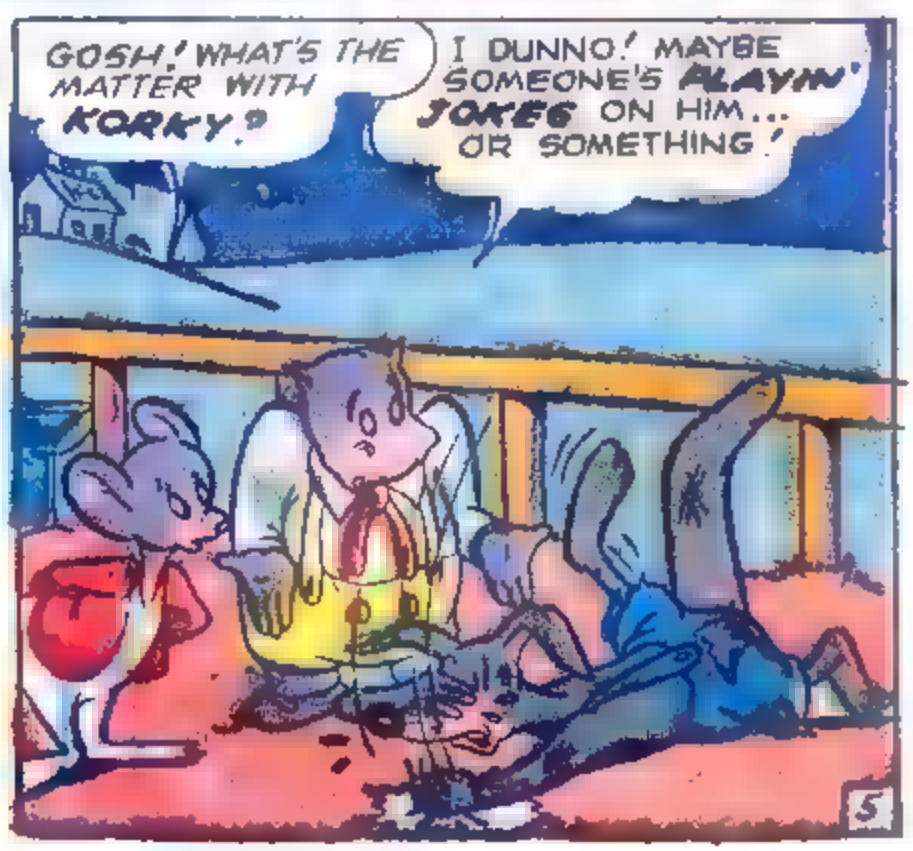
OH-G-G-GOSH! I N-NEVER T-THOUGHT OF TH-TH-THAT! I D-DON'T KNOW HOW TO G-GET HOME! I L-L-LOST MYSELF!


WHOOOO
AWK!
OOF!


HALP!


SEVERAL HOURS LATER..
GROAN.. GR-O-AN GROAN!
HELLO, KORKY! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WE WERE HUNTING ALL OVER FOR YOU BEFORE, AND WE EVEN LOOKED IN THE FIERCE FOREST!

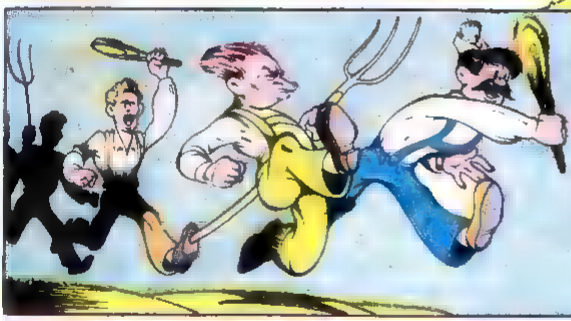

YEAH... CRUNCH... CRUNCH... WE WERE WITH AN INDIAN, BUT HE DISAPPEARED!
YEAH... AND THEN WE FOUND THIS SWELL TREASURE CHEST... CRUNCH.. CRUNCH.. FULL OF JELLY BEANS AND...
CRUNCH


GOSH! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH KORKY?
I DUNNO! MAYBE SOMEONE'S PLAYIN' JOKES ON HIM... OR SOMETHING!

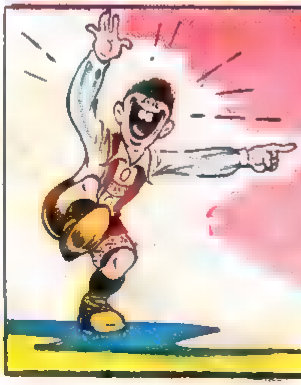
The BOY WHO CRIED WOLF

A MODERN VERSION OF THE FAMOUS AESOP FABLE.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A SHEPHERD BOY NAMED EDELWEISS DINKLEHOFF, WHO TENDED SHEEP NEAR A LITTLE SWISS VILLAGE. EDELWEISS WAS A VERY MISCHIEVOUS BOY, AND ONE DAY HE DECIDED TO PLAY A PRACTICAL JOKE ON THE LOCAL VILLAGERS, SO HE TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND BEGAN SHOUTING "WOLF! WOLF!" AS LOUD AS HE COULD.



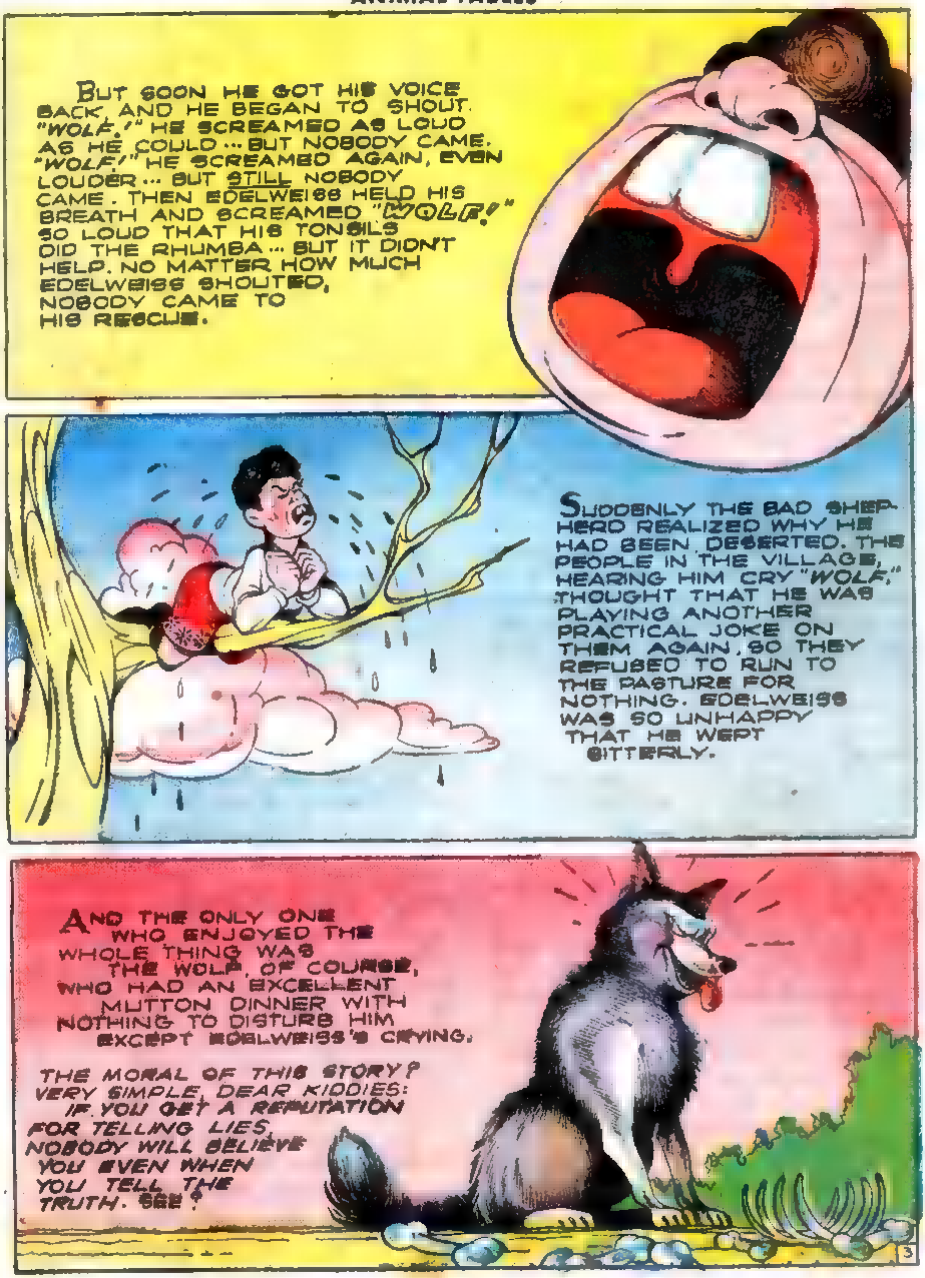
THE VILLAGERS, HEARING EDELWEISS'S CRIES, THOUGHT THAT THE SHEEP WERE BEING ATTACKED BY A WOLF SO THEY ALL GRABBED CLUBS AND PITCHFORKS AND RACED TOWARD THE PASTURE. "DON'T WORRY, EDELWEISS!" THEY HOLLERED, "WE'LL SAVE THE SHEEP!"



BUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE PASTURE, OF COURSE THERE WAS NO WOLF. NOT EVEN A SMALL ONE. NOT EVEN A *BABY* ONE. ALL THEY FOUND WAS EDELWEISS... AND HE WAS LAUGHING HIS HEAD OFF. "WHAT A BUNCHA JOIKS!" HE GUFFAWED, "WHAT A BUNCHA SQUARES! BOY DAT'S A GOOD JOKE ON YOUSE!"

(AS YOU CAN SEE, EDELWEISS HAD A VERY NASTY CHARACTER)

THE NEXT DAY EDELWEISS, WHO HAD ENJOYED HIS JOKE VERY MUCH, DECIDED TO TRY IT AGAIN. SO ONCE MORE HE FILLED HIS LUNGS AND BEGAN BELLOWING "WOLF!" "WOLF!" AT THE TOP OF HIS VOICE.
AND ONCE AGAIN THE VILLAGERS HURRIED AS FAST AS THEY COULD RUN TOWARD THE PASTURE TO SAVE THE SHEEP FROM THE WOLF'S ATTACK.
WOLF! WOLF!
"OH, ME ACHIN' BACK," GURGLED EDELWEISS, WHEN THE MEN ARRIVED "YOUSE HICKS SURE ARE EASY TO FOOL! THERE AIN'T NO WOLF! I WAS JUST CLOWNIN'!" THE VILLAGERS WERE VERY ANGRY WITH EDELWEISS FOR BEING SO FRESH.
THE VERY NEXT DAY, WHILE EDELWEISS WAS TENDING HIS SHEEP IN THE PASTURE, AN UPSETTING THING HAPPENED: A WOLF REALLY DID COME ALONG! THE WOLF LOOKED HUNGRILY AT THE SHEEP, THE SHEEP LOOKED QUESTIONINGLY AT EDELWEISS, AND EDELWEISS LOOKED YEARNINGLY FOR THE NEAREST TREE.
HE CLAMBERED QUICKLY ON TO A BRANCH WHERE THE WOLF COULDN'T REACH HIM, AND HE WAS SO FRIGHTENED ALL HE COULD SAY WAS "GLURG."


BUT SOON HE GOT HIS VOICE BACK AND HE BEGAN TO SHOUT. "WOLF!" HE SCREAMED AS LOUD AS HE COULD ... BUT NOBODY CAME. "WOLF!" HE SCREAMED AGAIN, EVEN LOUDER ... BUT STILL NOBODY CAME. THEN EDELWEISS HELD HIS BREATH AND SCREAMED "WOLF!" SO LOUD THAT HIS TONSILS DID THE RHUMBA ... BUT IT DIDN'T HELP. NO MATTER HOW MUCH EDELWEISS SHOUTED, NOBODY CAME TO HIS RESCUE.
SUDDENLY THE BAD SHEPHERD REALIZED WHY HE HAD BEEN DESERTED. THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE, HEARING HIM CRY "WOLF," THOUGHT THAT HE WAS PLAYING ANOTHER PRACTICAL JOKE ON THEM AGAIN, SO THEY REFUSED TO RUN TO THE PASTURE FOR NOTHING. EDELWEISS WAS SO UNHAPPY THAT HE WEPT BITTERLY.
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO ENJOYED THE WHOLE THING WAS THE WOLF, OF COURSE, WHO HAD AN EXCELLENT MUTTON DINNER WITH NOTHING TO DISTURB HIM EXCEPT EDELWEISS'S CRYING.
THE MORAL OF THIS STORY? VERY SIMPLE, DEAR KIDDIES: IF YOU GET A REPUTATION FOR TELLING LIES, NOBODY WILL BELIEVE YOU EVEN WHEN YOU TELL THE TRUTH. SEE?

THE CIRCUS PARADE

BILLY BROWN was as happy as a lark. It was eight o'clock in the morning and the sun was shining like a silver dollar outside. The birds twittered in the trees, and all was well with Billy's particular world.

"Ah, me!" he sighed as he lay in bed. "What a wonderful day! A wonderful, wonderful, wonderful day!"

Now to you and me, the day would have looked just like any other day — but to Billy it meant something special, and for a very special reason. For today . . . happy thought. . . the circus was coming to town! And Billy knew well enough what that meant. For one thing, the circus always announced its arrival with a great big parade.

The year before, Billy hadn't been able to go to the parade. Not after what he had done to his Aunt Minerva, who was visiting his folks at the time. "How stupid I was last year," Billy reflected. There it was — the day of the circus — and there was Aunt Minerva, washing her hair in a basin on the back porch.

"Hand me the shampoo, Billy," Aunt Minerva had asked, as she leaned over the basin, her hair streaming over her eyes. And what had Billy handed her? The molasses jug! Even now Billy laughed aloud as he remembered how funny Aunt Minerva looked with the molasses stuck in her hair.

"Boy, was she a mess!" thought Billy. "But it wasn't worth it in the end! Mom made me stay home from the circus parade and Aunt Minerva spent the whole day moaning and groaning about how awful she looked, while she tried to wash the sticky stuff out of her hair!"

This year was different, though. Billy had been a perfect angel for the past week, and Mom had promised to take him to the circus parade that very morning. No wonder he thought it was a wonderful day!

BILLY LOOKED at the clock. Holy Smoke! It was ten minutes past eight already!

He bounced out of bed like a jumping jack and ran to the bathroom, where he gave his face the usual lick-and-a-promise with soap and water, passed his dry toothbrush over his teeth once or twice, slicked down his hair with the palm of his hand, and then ran back into the bedroom to dress. Billy was not very neat, you see.

Then he slid quickly down the bannister and ran into the kitchen.

"Hi, Mom!" he said. "Let's get goin'!"

His mother was working at the kitchen sink, washing the dishes. When she saw Billy, she looked up and smiled.

"I'll have your breakfast ready in a jiffy, Billy" she said. "And then we're off to the circus parade!"

"Okay," said Billy. "And we better make it snappy! I got plans for today — big plans!"

"You have?" asked his mother.

"Yup! I'm going to lead the circus parade into town, Mom! Boy, will that make all the other kids jealous! It'll burn them up, I bet!"

"That's perfectly silly!" said Billy's mother. "They wouldn't let a ten year old boy like you lead the circus parade!"

Billy didn't bother to answer. Mothers never could understand, anyhow. His mind was made up to lead the parade, and somehow he'd find a way to do it. Once Billy Brown made up his mind, nothing could change it — until it was too late.

Ten minutes later, Billy and his mother were headed for the outskirts of town. Already they could hear the circus band practicing off in the distance. Streams of boys and girls passed by them. Billy wanted to run all the way to the circus, but his mother had him firmly by the hand.

Suddenly Peter Pringle passed by.

"Goin' to the circus, Billy?" he asked.

"Am I goin' to the circus? Ha, Ha, what a stupid question!" laughed Billy. "Listen, chum — I'm gonna lead the circus parade today!"

Now it was Peter's turn to laugh. "You're gonna lead the parade? Billy — you're just plain cuckoo!"

"Wait and see!" shrieked Billy. "You just wait and see!" But Peter just went running down the street, laughing out loud.

"I'll show 'im!" muttered Billy. "I'll show 'em all!"

THE GAILY-COLORED circus wagons were parked in a circle in the middle of the green meadow. There was the big red calliope, the big float that Emanuel the Snake Charmer rode on, together with the other freaks — and then, grouped together in one section, were the wagons that made Billy shriek with joy.

"Look at 'em Mom!" he yelled. "Just look at those cages full of monkeys, and tigers, and lions and everything! Boy, am I going to have fun with them!"

"Billy! Wait! Come back here!" his mother called frantically, but it was no use. Billy was running top-speed toward the animal cages, and in the twinkling of an eye, was lost in the crowd of people that was milling around the wagons.

"Oh, dear! I'd better get back to town and get a seat in the grandstand, and then I'll see Billy when the parade is over. I'll never find him in this mob!" Mrs. Brown looked worried and anxious as she started back toward town. Billy certainly was a problem child, she reflected.

If Mrs. Brown could have seen Billy a few minutes later, she would have realized that Billy was not only a problem to her. For he was now standing in front of the monkeys' cage, and his antics were most peculiar to behold. First he stuck his tongue out at them, then he started to jump up and down, shrieking at the top of his lungs, "Hey! Hey! Look at the dopey monkeys!"

At first, the monkeys had just stared at Billy in amazement. Then their surprise turned to anger. They began to chatter at a shrill pitch. They swung against the bars, trying to reach the boy that was making fun of them. But of course it was no use. Billy was safe outside the bars, and he knew it.

After a while he got tired of annoying the monkeys, so he visited the lions' cage. There he took a stick and ran it up and down the cage, across the bars. "RAT-TAT-TAT-A-TAT!" The lions inside jumped to their feet. They started to stalk across the cage. But every time they got close to Billy, he would jump nimbly aside, pulling the stick away from their jaws just in the nick of time. The poor lions and lionnesses set up a terrific roaring, which brought the guards running.

But by the time the guards got there, Billy had disappeared.

Billy was having a wonderful time. This was his idea of fun. After he got tired of annoying the animals, he would wait for the parade to start, and he would jump out in front of the bandmaster and march boldly in front of him. What a big shot he would be!

But right now, he had other things to do. He pulled his water pistol out of his back pocket, and filled it with water from a bucket standing nearby. Then he went over to the giraffe's cage. He took aim carefully, shot a full stream — swoosh! — at the giraffe's head, and then laughed like a hyena as he watched the water running all the way down the giraffe's long neck.

The giraffe was very upset. He tossed his head to the left and to the right, trying to shake the water off. It was a chilly day, and the water made the giraffe even chillier. But Billy didn't waste any sympathy on the poor animal. He just took his water pistol and filled it up again, and once more took careful aim at the giraffe's neck.

But this time he wasn't so lucky. Just as he was going to pull the trigger, the guard came running up.

"So!" said the guard. "So you're the nuisance that's been upsetting all the animals! Well, we know what to do with pesky little boys like you!"

And without further ado, the guard picked Billy up, walked to an empty, barred cage, unfastened the door and thrust Billy inside.

"Let me out!" screamed Billy. "You can't do this to me!"

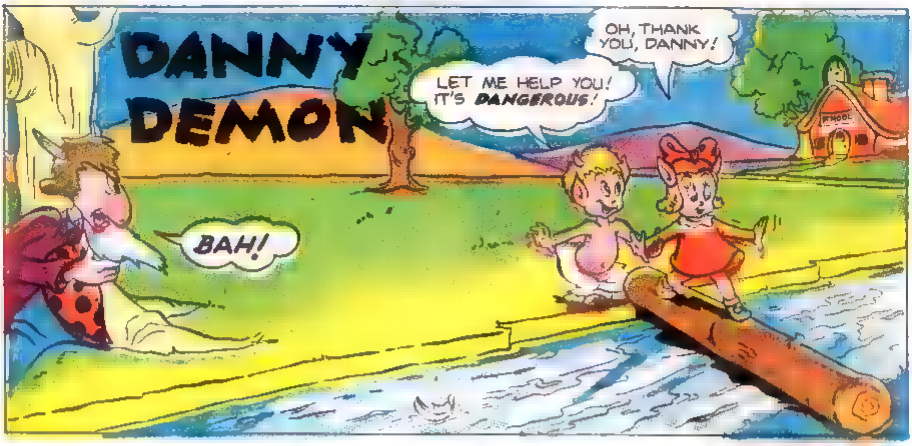
"Oh, no?" said the guard. "We'll see about that!"

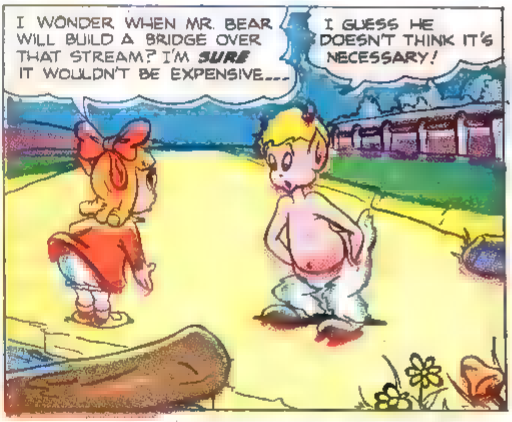
MRS. BROWN was growing restless in the stands. The parade was about to begin. She could hear the band playing a little way off. Soon she saw the procession in sight. Then the first cage rolled into view. Imagine her surprise, when she saw inside — her own son Billy! On the front of the cage a sign, **"WILDEST BOY IN CAPTIVITY!"**

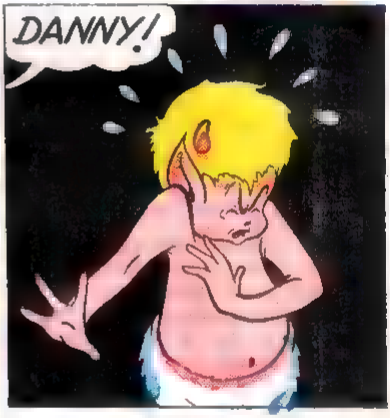
The people in the stands roared with laughter. Peter Pringle almost laughed his head off.

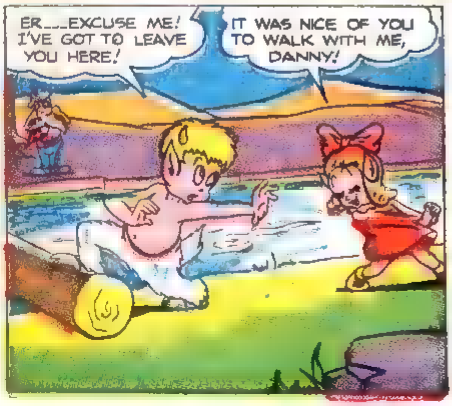
Billy Brown was so humiliated, he almost died of shame. "I'm leading the parade, all right," he said. "But I'm the laughing stock of the town! Never again!" he vowed.

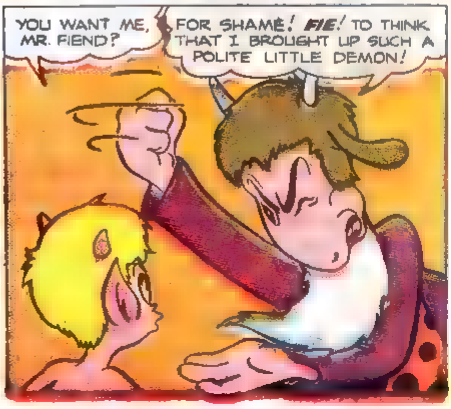
And do you know? From that day to this, Billy Brown was the best-behaved boy in town!


DANNY DEMON
BAH!
LET ME HELP YOU! IT'S DANGEROUS!
OH, THANK YOU, DANNY!
SCHOOL

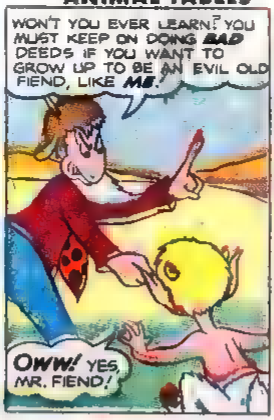

I WONDER WHEN MR. BEAR WILL BUILD A BRIDGE OVER THAT STREAM? I'M SURE IT WOULDN'T BE EXPENSIVE...
I GUESS HE DOESN'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY!

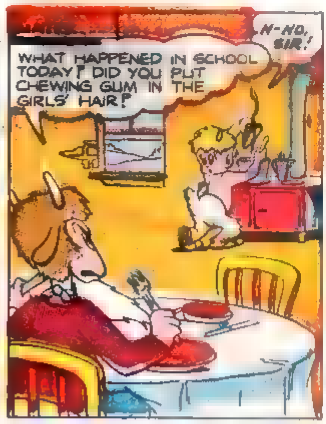

DANNY!

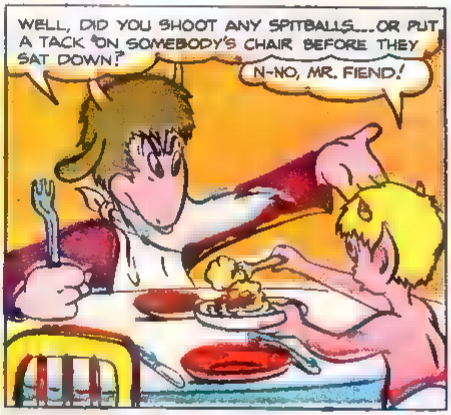

ER...EXCUSE ME! I'VE GOT TO LEAVE YOU HERE!
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO WALK WITH ME, DANNY!

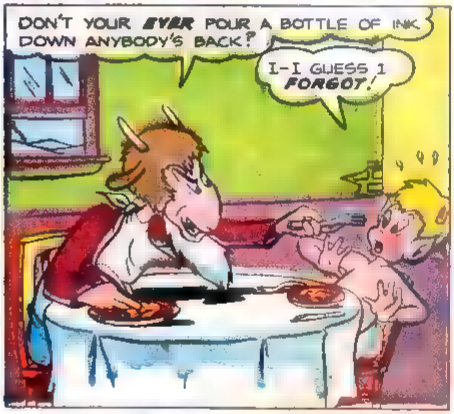

YOU WANT ME, MR. FIEND?
FOR SHAME! FIE! TO THINK THAT I BROUGHT UP SUCH A POLITE LITTLE DEMON!

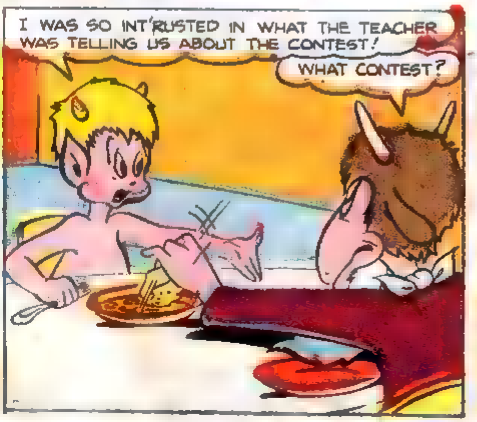
I SAW YOU WITH MY VERY OWN EYES! YOU HELPED THAT GIRL ACROSS THE LOG!
Y-YESSIR!.. DID I DO WRONG?

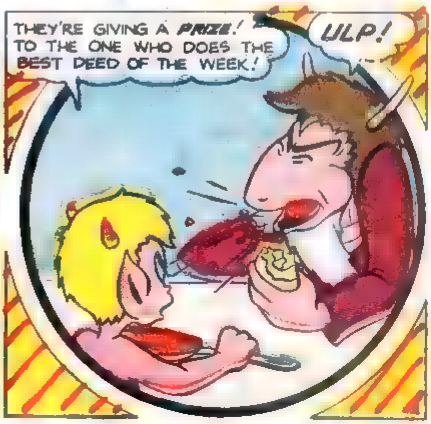

WON'T YOU EVER LEARN? YOU MUST KEEP ON DOING BAD DEEDS IF YOU WANT TO GROW UP TO BE AN EVIL OLD FIEND, LIKE ME!
OWW! YES, MR. FIEND!


WHAT HAPPENED IN SCHOOL TODAY? DID YOU PUT CHEWING GUM IN THE GIRLS' HAIR?
N-NO, SIR!


WELL, DID YOU SHOOT ANY SPITBALLS...OR PUT A TACK ON SOMEBODY'S CHAIR BEFORE THEY SAT DOWN?
N-NO, MR. FIEND!


DON'T YOUR EVER POUR A BOTTLE OF INK DOWN ANYBODY'S BACK?
I-I GUESS I FORGOT!

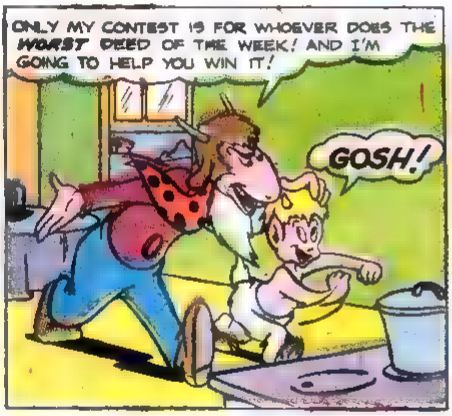

I WAS SO INT'RUSTED IN WHAT THE TEACHER WAS TELLING US ABOUT THE CONTEST!
WHAT CONTEST?

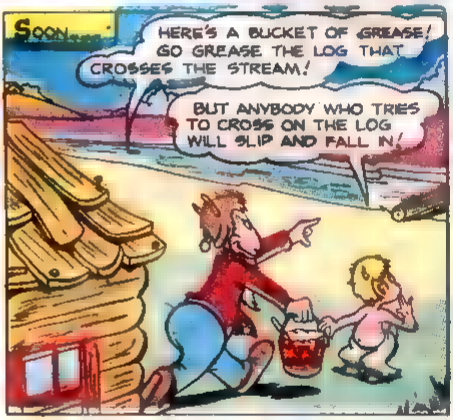

THEY'RE GIVING A PRIZE! TO THE ONE WHO DOES THE BEST DEED OF THE WEEK!
ULP!

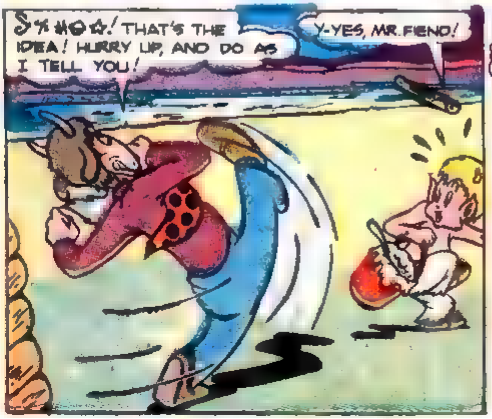
YOU'RE NOT ENTERING THAT CONTEST, ARE YOU?
WHY...UH...I THINK IT WOULD BE FUN!

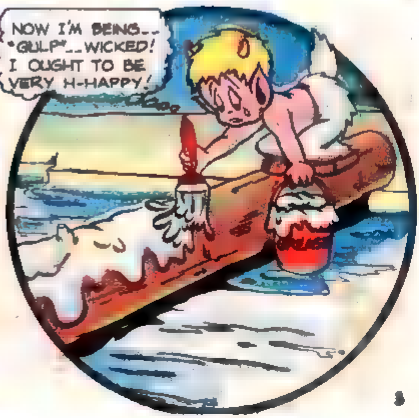
HMM! ALL KIDS LOVE CONTESTS, AND DANNY DEMON IS NO-EXCEPTION! THAT GIVES ME A WONDERFULLY WICKED
HEH, HEH!

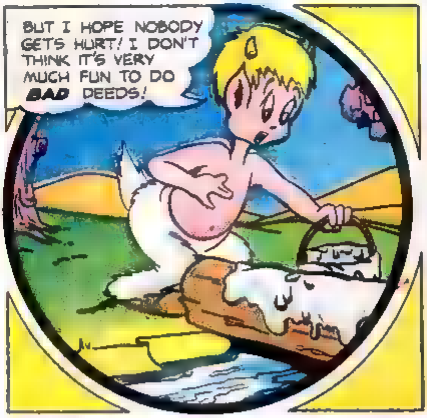
BY A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE, IT SO HAPPENS THAT I'M RUNNING A CONTEST, TOO!
YOU ARE?

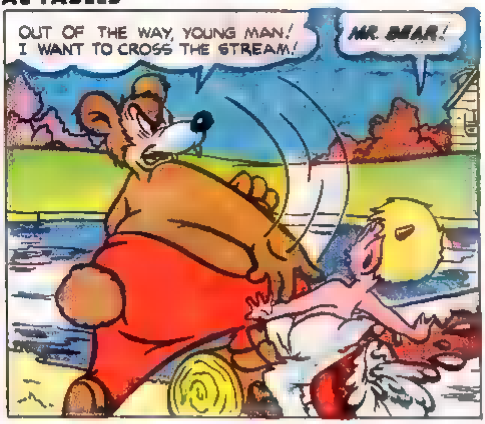

ONLY MY CONTEST IS FOR WHOEVER DOES THE WORST DEED OF THE WEEK! AND I'M GOING TO HELP YOU WIN IT!
GOSH!

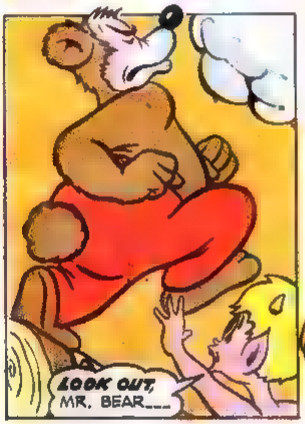

SOON...
HERE'S A BUCKET OF GREASE! GO GREASE THE LOG THAT CROSSES THE STREAM!
BUT ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO CROSS ON THE LOG WILL SLIP AND FALL IN!


S%#@☆! THAT'S THE IDEA! HURRY UP, AND DO AS I TELL YOU!
Y-YES, MR. FIEND!


NOW I'M BEING... "GULP"...WICKED! I OUGHT TO BE VERY H-HAPPY!

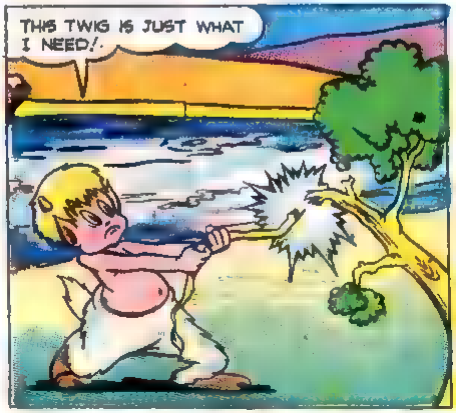

BUT I HOPE NOBODY GETS HURT! I DON'T THINK IT'S VERY MUCH FUN TO DO BAD DEEDS!

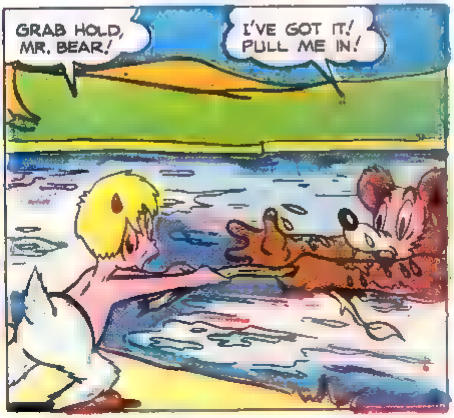

OUT OF THE WAY, YOUNG MAN! I WANT TO CROSS THE STREAM!
MR. BEAR!

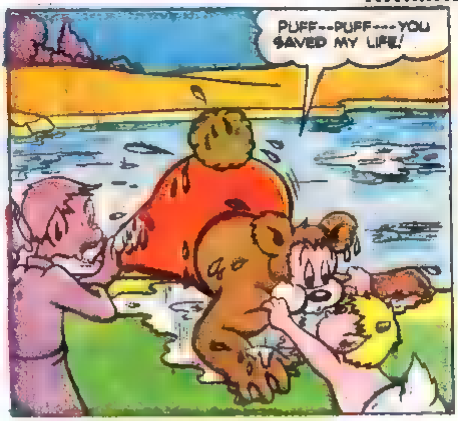

LOOK OUT, MR. BEAR...

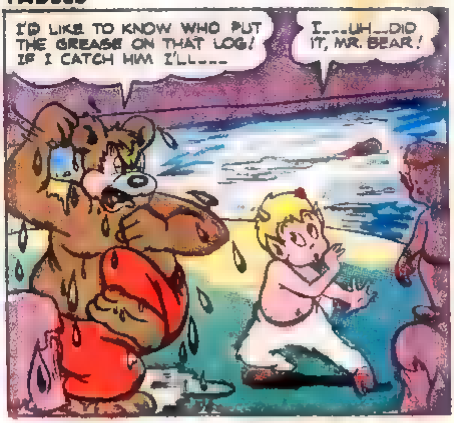
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I CAN'T LET HIM DROWN!
HELP!


THIS TWIG IS JUST WHAT I NEED!


GRAB HOLD, MR. BEAR!
I'VE GOT IT! PULL ME IN!

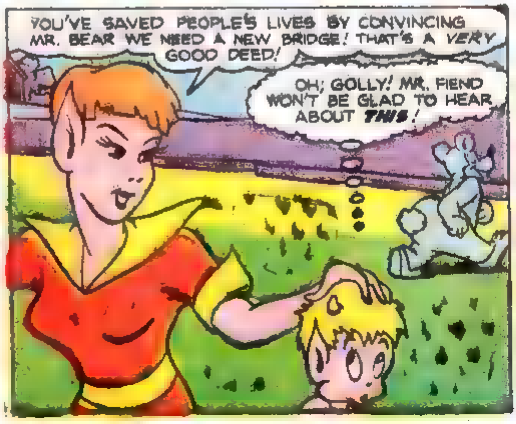

PUFF--PUFF---YOU SAVED MY LIFE!

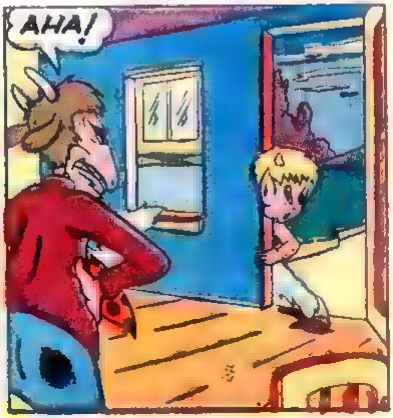

I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHO PUT THE GREASE ON THAT LOG! IF I CATCH HIM I'LL---
I---UH--DID IT, MR. BEAR!

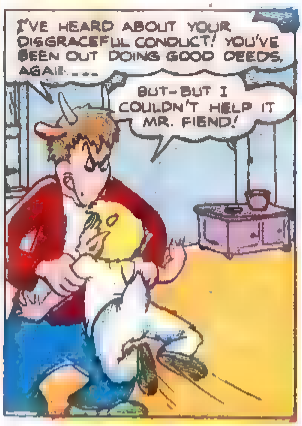
YOU! WHY---WHY---

(CHOKE) I KNOW WHY YOU DID IT! YOU WANTED TO PROVE TO ME THAT THE LOG WAS UNSAFE! WELL, YOU'VE SUCCEEDED---

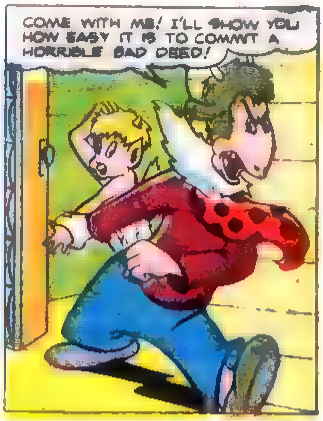
I'LL START BUILDING A BRIDGE ACROSS THE STREAM AT ONCE! NO ONE WILL EVER FALL THAT STREAM AGAIN!
GOSH!

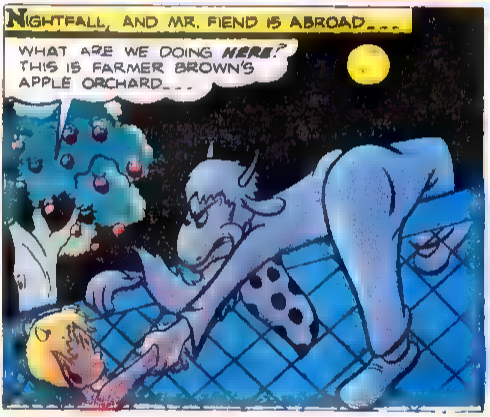

YOU'VE SAVED PEOPLE'S LIVES BY CONVINCING MR. BEAR WE NEED A NEW BRIDGE! THAT'S A VERY GOOD DEED!
OH; GOLLY! MR. FIEND WON'T BE GLAD TO HEAR ABOUT THIS!

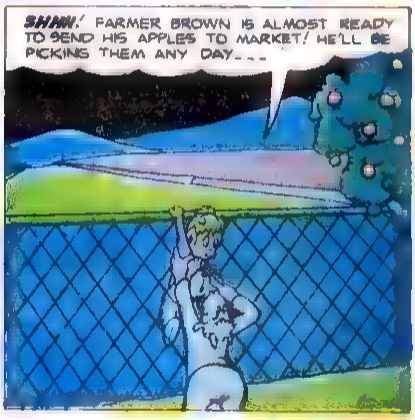

AHA!

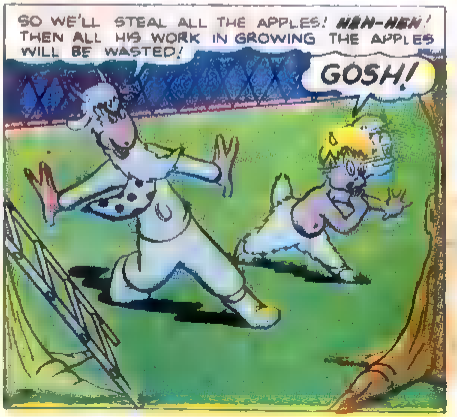

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR DISGRACEFULL CONDUCT! YOU'VE BEEN OUT DOING GOOD DEEDS, AGAIN....
BUT-BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT MR. FIEND!

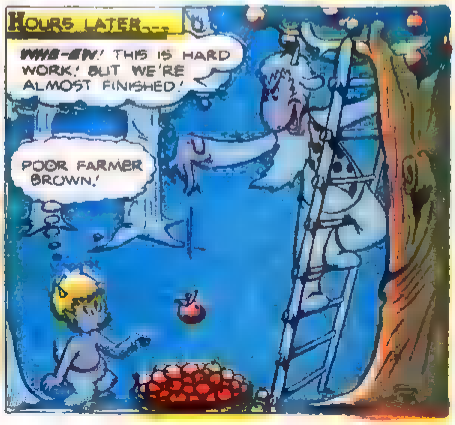
I GREASED THE LOG, JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME!
BAH! YOU BOTCHED THE JOB COMPLETELY!

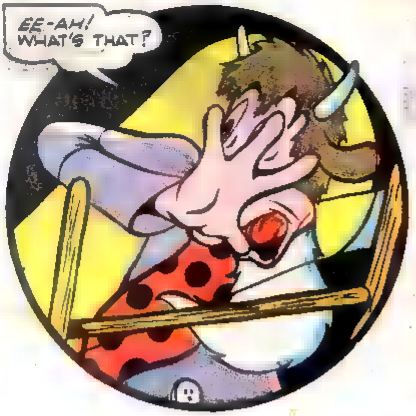

COME WITH ME! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW EASY IT IS TO COMMIT A HORRIBLE BAD DEED!

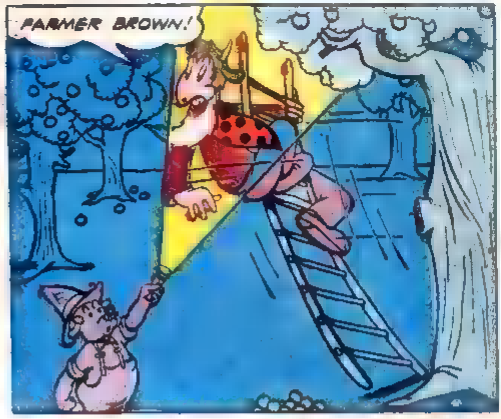

NIGHTFALL, AND MR. FIEND IS ABROAD...
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? THIS IS FARMER BROWN'S APPLE ORCHARD...

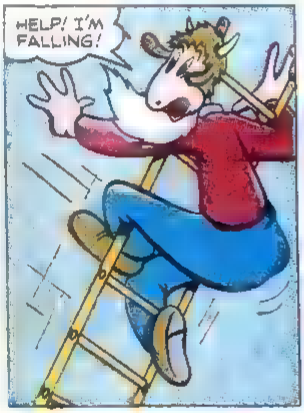

SHHH! FARMER BROWN IS ALMOST READY TO SEND HIS APPLES TO MARKET! HE'LL BE PICKING THEM ANY DAY...

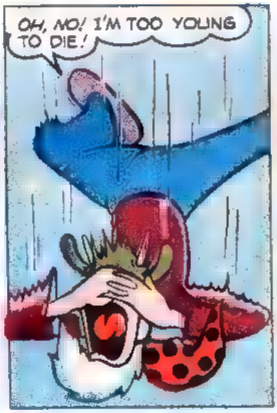

SO WE'LL STEAL ALL THE APPLES! HEH-HEH! THEN ALL HIS WORK IN GROWING THE APPLES WILL BE WASTED!
GOSH!


HOURS LATER...
WHO-EW! THIS IS HARD WORK! BUT WE'RE ALMOST FINISHED!
POOR FARMER BROWN!

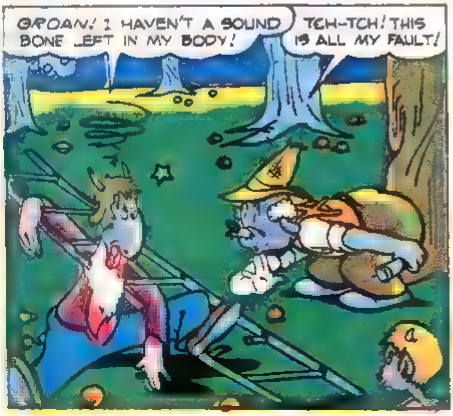

EE-AH! WHAT'S THAT?

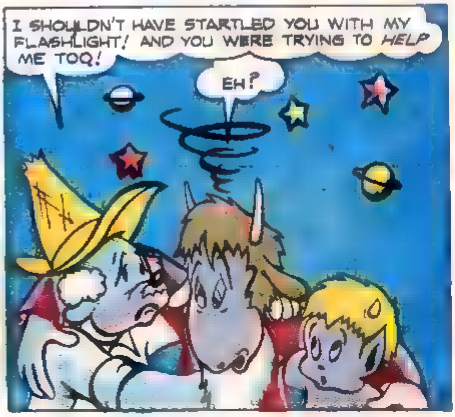

FARMER BROWN!

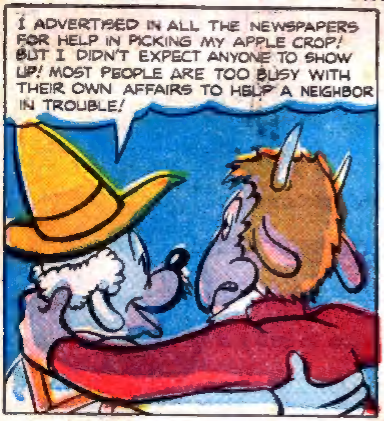

HELP! I'M FALLING!


OH, NO! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

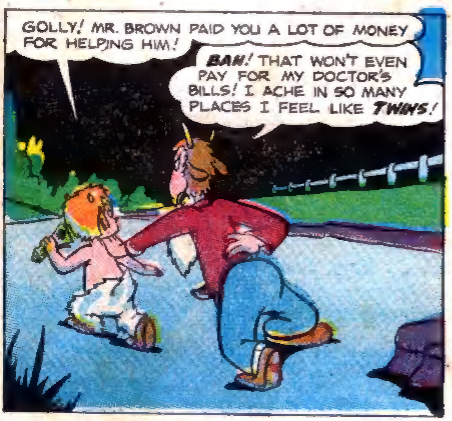
CRASH!
BAM!

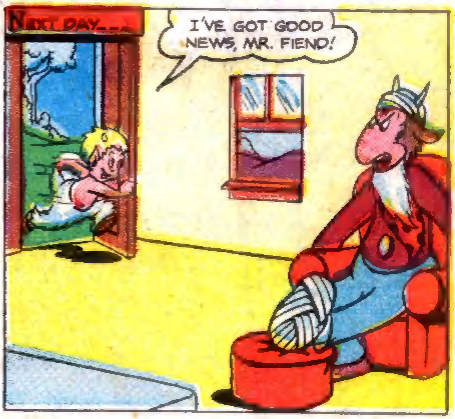

GROAN! I HAVEN'T A SOUND BONE LEFT IN MY BODY!
TCH-TCH! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!


I SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTLED YOU WITH MY FLASHLIGHT! AND YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP ME TOO!
EH?

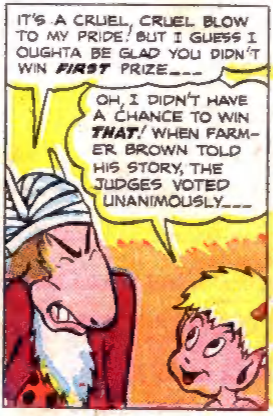

I ADVERTISED IN ALL THE NEWSPAPERS FOR HELP IN PICKING MY APPLE CROP! BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO SHOW UP! MOST PEOPLE ARE TOO BUSY WITH THEIR OWN AFFAIRS TO HELP A NEIGHBOR IN TROUBLE!

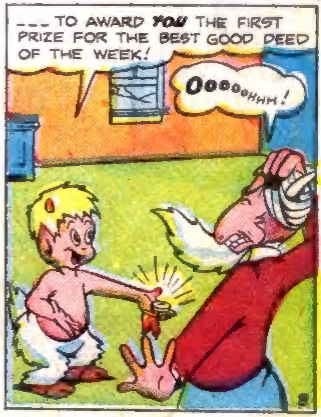
I OWE YOU A DEBT OF THANKS, MY FRIEND! MY APPLES WOULD HAVE SPOILED IF NOT FOR YOU! YOU'VE DONE A GOOD DEED!
A GOOD DEED? GROANNNN!


GOLLY! MR. BROWN PAID YOU A LOT OF MONEY FOR HELPING HIM!
BAH! THAT WON'T EVEN PAY FOR MY DOCTOR'S BILLS! I ACHE IN SO MANY PLACES I FEEL LIKE TWINS!


NEXT DAY...
I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS, MR. FIEND!

DID YOU DO SOMETHING REALLY WICKED? TELL ME ABOUT IT!
OH! IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! I WON SECOND PRIZE IN THE GOOD DEED CONTEST! I GOT A BLUE RIBBON...


IT'S A CRUEL, CRUEL BLOW TO MY PRIDE! BUT I GUESS I OUGHTA BE GLAD YOU DIDN'T WIN FIRST PRIZE...
OH, I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THAT! WHEN FARMER BROWN TOLD HIS STORY, THE JUDGES VOTED UNANIMOUSLY...


... TO AWARD YOU THE FIRST PRIZE FOR THE BEST GOOD DEED OF THE WEEK!
OOOOOHHM!

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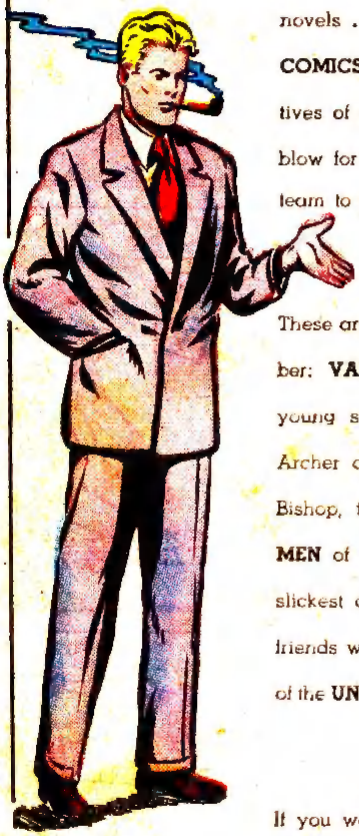

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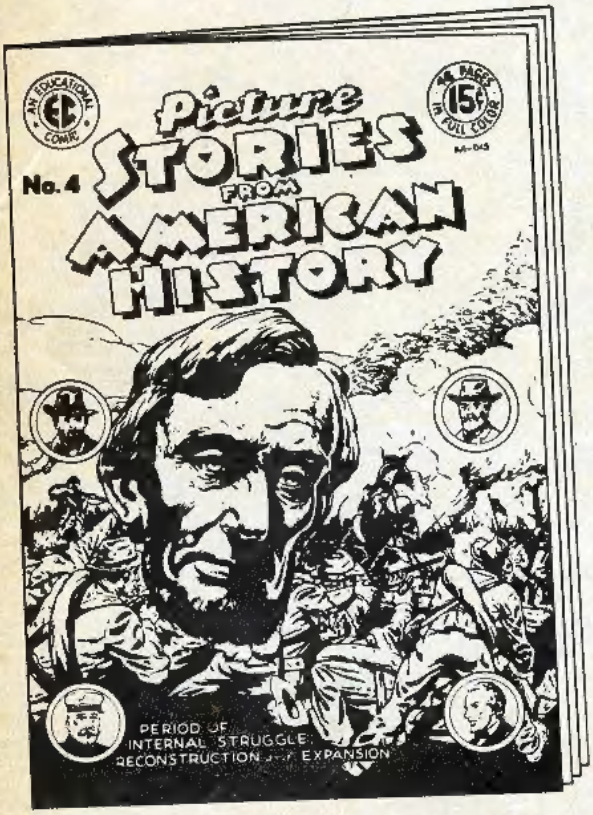

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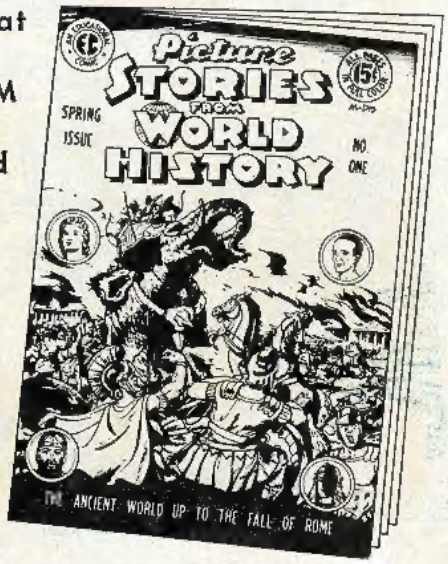

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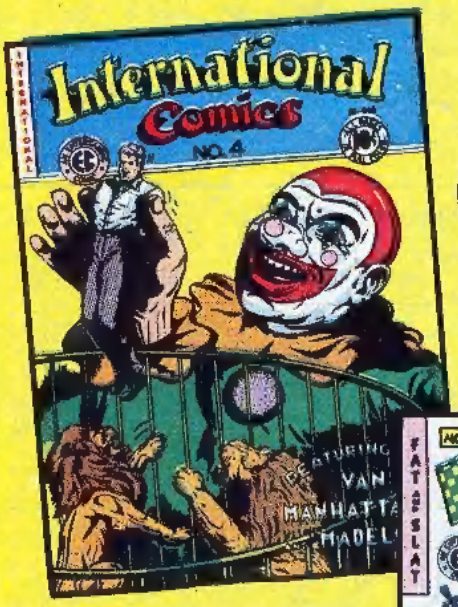

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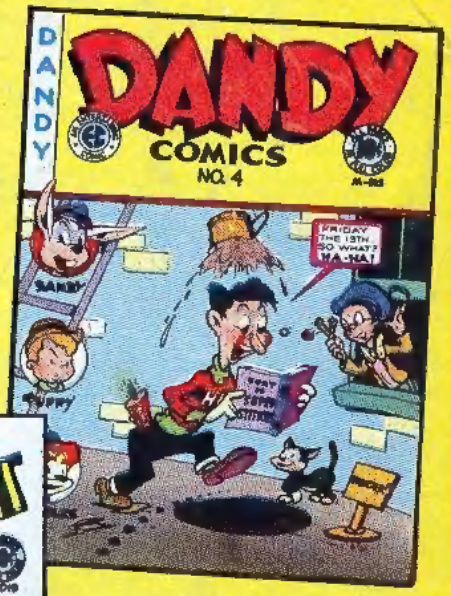

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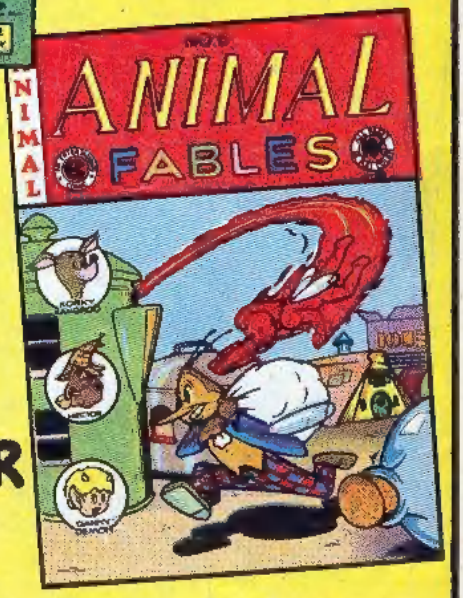
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